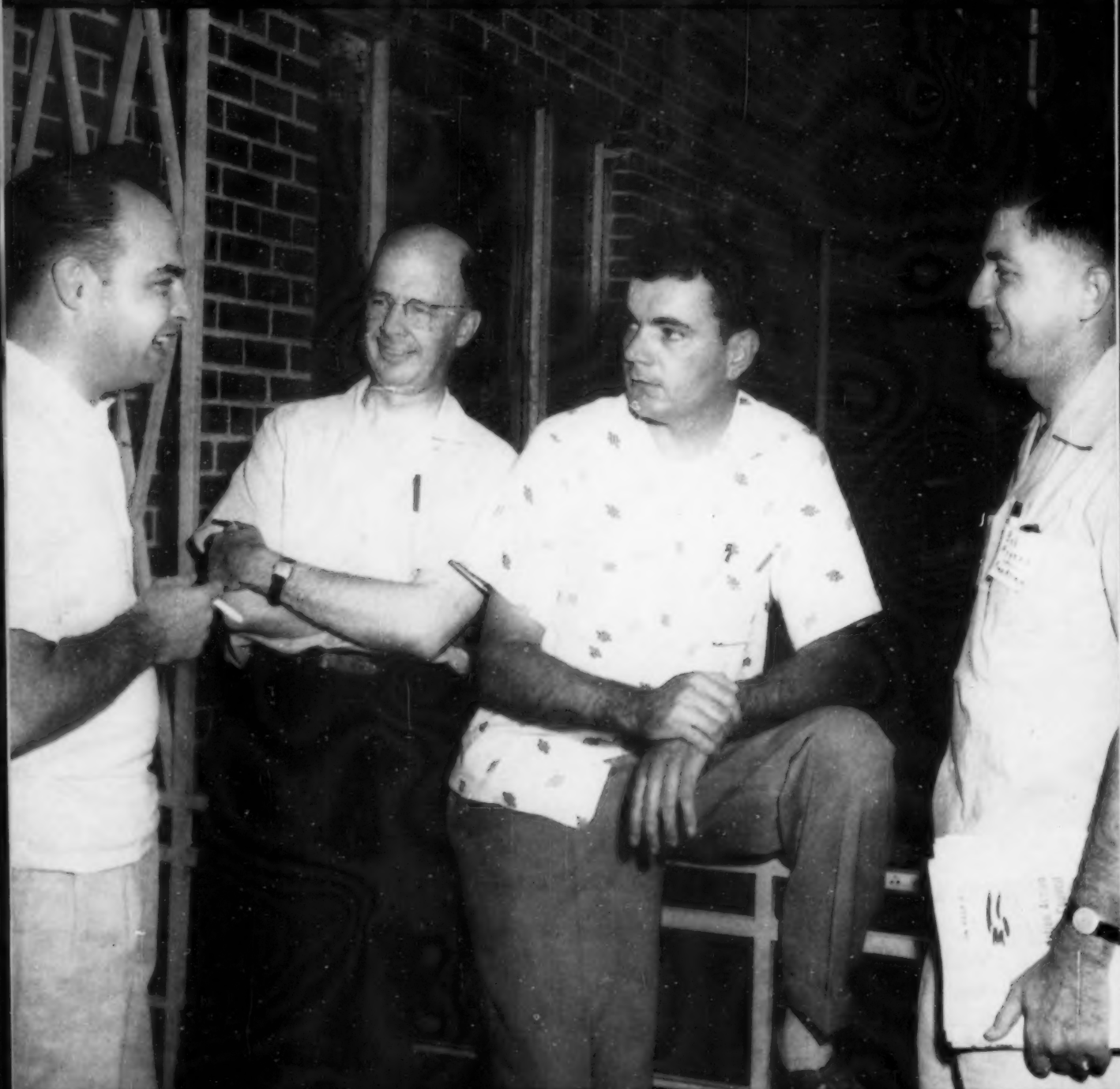


# THE QUILL

A MAGAZINE FOR JOURNALISTS



Executive Editor

The Quill was founded in 1942 by a group of journalists who were working for the United States Information Agency at the time of World War II.



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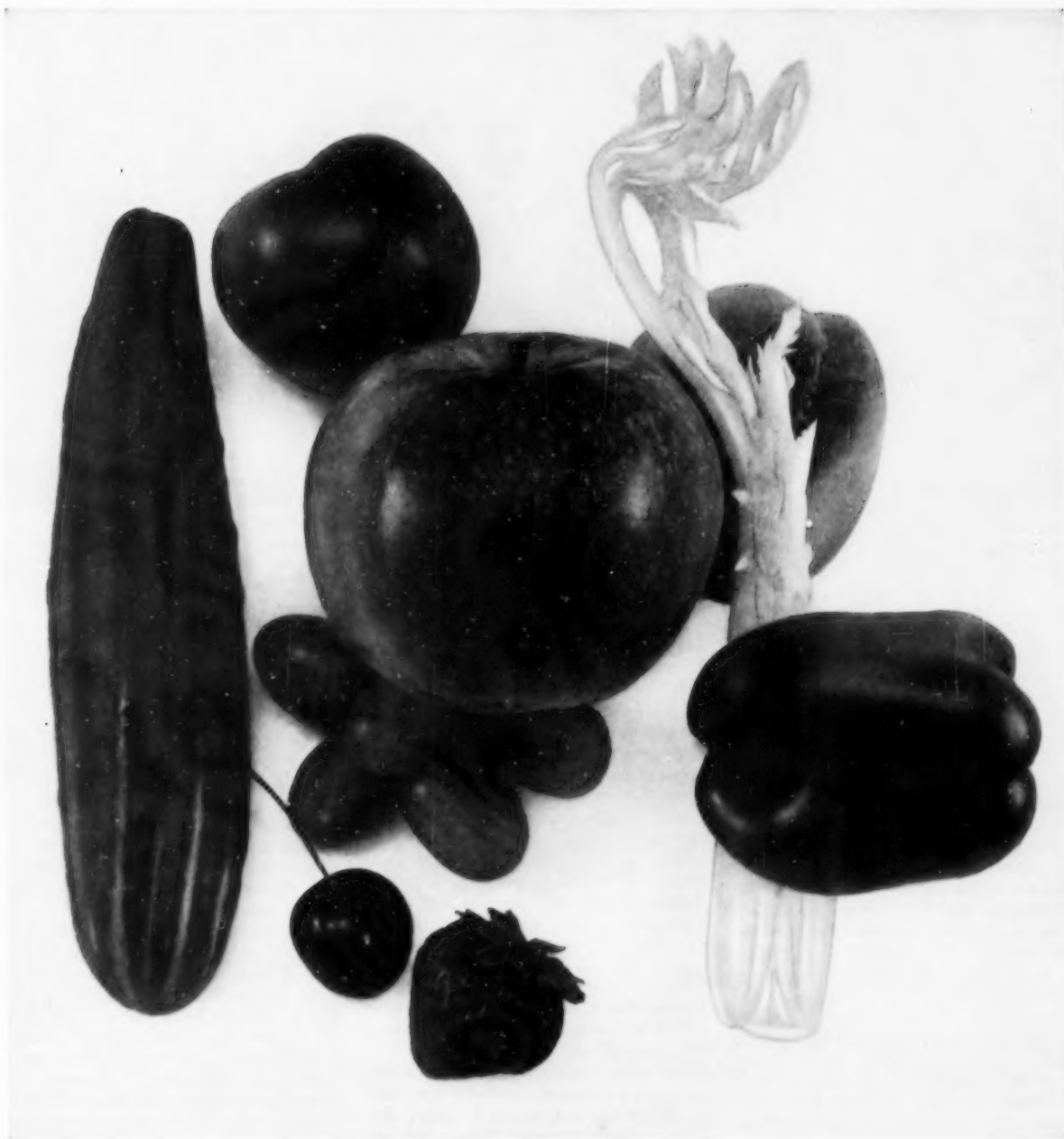
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## Bylines in This Issue

SOME newspapermen who sympathized with the Army in its televised conflict with Senator McCarthy before a Senate committee last year may have cheered the presidential letter that blocked disclosure of certain conversations about the case. But the letter set a precedent that shelters other federal officials anxious to keep various matters "confidential."

Thoughtful Washington newspapermen fear some of their fellows who normally oppose any barrier to the flow of information may have seen only the tree and overlooked the forest in this case. A forthright spokesman for this view is **Clark R. Mollenhoff**.

He recently testified about the effect of the Eisenhower-Wilson letter before the House subcommittee investigating news suppression by executive agencies. He states his case in "Is the Press Alert to a Dangerous Precedent on Executive Secrecy?" (page 9).

Battling for information on government activities is an old story for Mollenhoff who for five years has carried on the crusading reporting in the nation's capital that he started in Des Moines, Iowa. Now a member of the Washington Bureau of the Cowles Newspapers—Des Moines Register and Tribune and Minneapolis Star and Tribune—he has won two Sigma Delta Chi awards for Washington correspondence in three years.

The awards were made for the same kind of digging, hard-hitting reporting that had earlier aided in the exposure of scandals that brought city management to Des Moines and county government reform. But in Washington, Clark writes that he has "felt frustrated by the lack of direct access to records" he had in city, county and state government.

However, in his most recent Sigma Delta Chi award for coverage of the Agriculture Department's dismissal of Wolf Ladejinsky, Russian-born farm expert, the citation said: "Overcoming obstacles that might have thwarted a less zealous newspaperman, he penetrated a bureaucratic curtain of evasiveness to pin down responsibility for official actions which verged on violation of basic American concepts."

Now 34 and a native of Iowa, he was a police and later a political reporter in Des Moines from 1942 to 1949. At the same time he won a law degree from Drake University—he

was admitted to the Iowa bar—and took time out to serve in the Pacific as a naval officer. He was a Nieman fellow at Harvard University in 1949-50 and was assigned to his papers' Washington Bureau in 1950.

THE annual report of Sigma Delta Chi's Committee on the Advancement of Freedom of Information is published on pages 27-37 of this number of THE QUILL. Submitted by the committee's chairman, V. M. Newton, Jr., managing editor of the Tampa (Fla.) Tribune, the report was accepted by the fraternity at its recent Chicago convention.

DAILY newspaper editorial writers have for years had their own specialized organization for professional study and improvement. The weekly press has been highly organized nationally and regionally for far longer. But it was only last summer that a first dozen small town editors, representing states from coast to coast, gathered on the campus of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale to launch their own specialized editorial group.

The story of the founding and hopes of the National Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors is told in "Grass Roots Journalism Eyes Its Editorial Job" (page 11) by **D. Wayne Rowland**. It is planned to keep the group small to permit practical working sessions with emphasis on editorials in weekly papers. In time two or more small groups may meet simultaneously to preserve the effectiveness of informal approach.

The author, now an assistant professor in SIU's department of journalism, is a former weekly and daily newspaper editor and publisher who participated in the first sessions. He was graduated in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1947 after World War II service as an artillery officer in Europe and later as a public relations officer.

He spent nearly eight years as editor and publisher of several weeklies in Missouri and a small daily, the Lamar Daily Journal, before joining the SIU faculty in 1954.

IN obtaining his master's degree in library science from Florida State University in 1954, **Eddie Weems**, who wrote "Life in the Old Morgue Can Put a New Spark in News and Cash in Till" (page 12), composed a thesis

titled "A Study of American Newspaper Libraries." J. E. Molloy, librarian of the Philadelphia (Pa.) *Inquirer*, has reported that he plans to use part of Weems' thesis in a "Handbook for Newspaper Libraries" which he is editing for the Special Libraries Association.

In addition to his work as instructor of journalism, Weems is now also first catalog assistant in the main library at Baylor University, Waco, Texas.

Prior to obtaining his Florida degree, Weems fought in two wars, obtained two degrees in Texas and worked on three newspapers, also in Texas. He served with the Navy from 1942 to 1946 in World War II, received bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism from the University of Texas and was back in the Navy during the Korean conflict.

Between wars and degrees he worked for the Temple Daily Telegram, the San Angelo Standard-Times, and the Dallas Morning News.

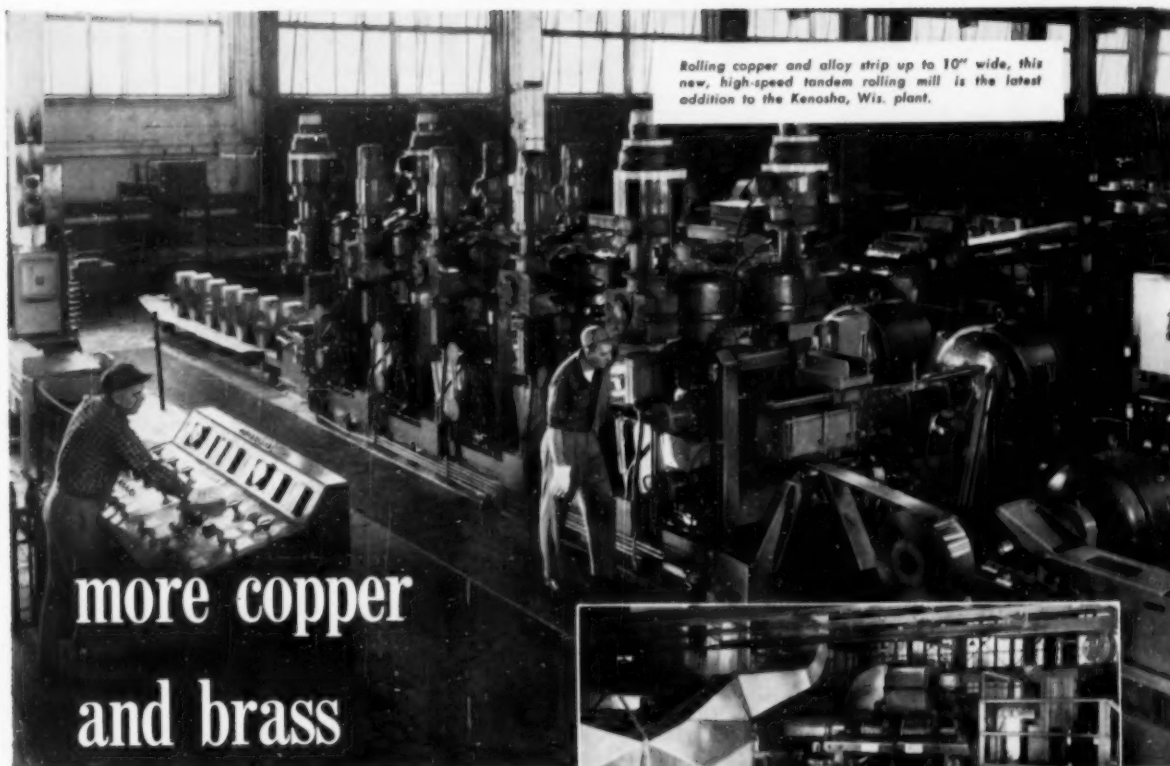
SHOWN on this month's cover during the initial meeting of weekly editors to consider betterment of their editorial leadership are, from the left, John C. Obert, Alexandria (Minn.) Park Region Echo; Houstoun Waring, Littleton (Colo.) Independent; George Murphy, Manteca (Calif.) Bulletin; and Robert Angers Jr., Franklin (La.) Banner Tribune. The story of the conference's founding last summer at Southern Illinois University is told by D. Wayne Rowland, a participant, in this number of THE QUILL.

DELBERT MCGUIRE, who describes a unique on-the-job program in "Journalism Students Get a Test as 'Interns' on Texas Newspapers" (page 15), has pursued his own journalistic interests in three directions. He has been newspaperman, trade journal editor and journalism teacher.

After starting a career as a 14-year-old rural correspondent for the Memphis (Texas) Democrat, he attended West Texas State College. This was interrupted by three years in the 20th Air Force which took him to Saipan in the Pacific. He returned to take bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism at the University of Texas.

While still in university, he worked as a photographer and deskman on the Austin American-Statesman. After completing his studies, he spent seven years as editor, successively, of the Southern Florist and Nurseryman and the Automatic World, trade publications published in Fort Worth. He is now assistant professor of journalism at North Texas State College.

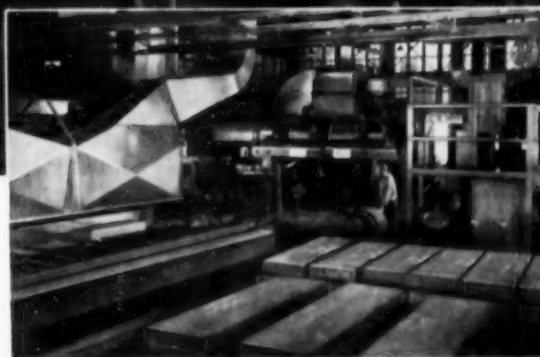




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Its completion will mark one more advance in Anaconda's company-wide expansion and improvement program. Through such accomplishments, Anaconda is constantly increasing its ability to serve American industry in the non-ferrous metal and metal-product fields.

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# THE QUILL

A Magazine for Journalists  
Founded 1912

Vol. XLIII

No. 12

## Let's See the Clips

THE QUILL is happy to publish, in this number, an article by Eddie Weems on newspaper libraries. (The term "morgue" is so old-fashioned that even I've almost quit using it.) This is a relatively neglected topic in professional literature as well, I am sure, as an often neglected tool in newsrooms. And even on the best equipped newspapers, I fear the librarians are less than properly appreciated.

I know I am among the major nuisances in the life of the highly efficient chief librarian of my own newspaper and his staff. I am rarely content with one clipping on an assignment if I can find time to read ten.

My memory is reasonably good and ought to be long, at my age. But I should find the writing of many editorials (or news stories) a frustrating chore if I could not equip myself with far more background about a situation or an individual than I can possibly use at one time.

I am also a frequent dipper into reference books, from the standard encyclopedias and annual fact books to foreign language dictionaries and the assorted volumes of quotations. I have a horror of dragging a morsel of erudition into public view without checking its authenticity and context against my memory.

Such quirks as the last are admittedly among the minutiae of a journalist's job. A slightly misplaced quotation or historical allusion will get you in far less trouble than a wrong middle initial or sloppy multiplication. But the latter are necessary hazards of the writing trade and the former are not. It is worse to stumble strutting.

OF course most of a long experience as a newspaperman has been on a major metropolitan daily which has an adequate library. I have had the tools of research. All I have needed to do is to overcome my normal instinct to do things the easy way and acquire the habit of using such tools.

I would be less than honest to imply that I learned how to make the most of a newspaper library all by myself. Earlier in this column I spoke of my paper's chief librarian as "highly efficient." He is, but to dismiss him as only that is like writing an editorial of complicated background after a hasty reading of one news story. Tom Sayers of the *Chicago Daily News* is also imaginative and sympathetic and tireless—and there is a legend that he remembers everything that ever happened.

Even when I approach him with an idea so nebulous that it seems to defy any known system of filing, he will pick up a trail like an old hound sniffing from place to place. It may be in a forgotten reference book, a file of clippings on a quite different subject or even in the

captions of pictures unlikely ever to see use as cuts.

There may possibly be other librarians like Tom and if you have one you are lucky. But even the best of them and the best kept of newspaper morgues are not a positive guarantee against an occasional glaring gap in information or downright error.

The errors come usually when generations of reporters keep going to the library and rewriting the original mistake until it is sanctified by a fistful of clippings. The gaps are mostly those inherent in the necessarily piecemeal reporting of news on deadline and in limited space.

I RAN into an interesting specimen of the latter several years ago when British manufacturers sharply underbid American firms on electrical equipment for a government dam in the Pacific Northwest. Some red-faced officials promptly raised a cry of the "Buy America Act," despite the parallel slogan of "Trade, Not Aid."

Uncle Sam reneged on the bids and it appeared, in news stories, that an ironclad law had been passed to take care of home industry back in the hungry 1930s. The further I dug into clippings, the less firm this precedent seemed. I simply could not find out, to my satisfaction at least, exactly what had happened in Congress twenty years earlier and since.

Tom Sayers even steered me into a dusty volume of the *Congressional Record*. I enjoyed myself reading pages of forgotten oratory by Hiram Johnson and others. But the *Record* offered no record of many details which by that time I wanted to know very much indeed. So we gave up and I called a pal in our Washington bureau. He opined that a phone call would yield the answers in minutes.

After hours of digging, he got the answers—there was also some confusion in Washington. They satisfied me that the "Buy America Act" being bandied about so glibly in current news was not the simple bulwark of domestic industry that it appeared.

This is no place to discuss foreign trade. Suffice it to say I was able to write several editorials that were informed, if nothing else. I was even able, a few days later, to discuss the matter with the British ambassador with more knowledge than would have been expected far from the capital.

I checked the library today and found that clippings of those editorials repose not only in the envelope under the name of the dam but in another indexed under "Buy America Act." They repose on top of the other clippings that didn't tell me the whole story. I felt like a man who had been able to pour a small cupful of water into a well from which he had drunk for years.

CARL R. KESLER

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# Some Sober Facts Behind the Search for Oil

by Former Ambassador to Great Britain,

**LEWIS W. DOUGLAS**

**I**N recent times some people have expressed the view that the oil industry has been enjoying a favorable tax position by reason of the provision for depletion. Yet, drilling for oil has always been one of the riskiest businesses in the world and is becoming more hazardous. Here are a few sober facts that face the man who drills for oil today:

He must invest about \$123,000—on the average—in every exploration well he drills; yet *only 1 out of every 9* of these "wildcat" wells ever produces oil.

And only 1 out of 44 wells finds an oil field big enough to supply America for just 4 hours. The odds against finding a 50,000,000 barrel field—enough to supply the U. S. for about a week—are incredible—966 to 1.

But this is not all. To a great extent the obvious shallow sands where oil might be found easily have already been tested. Consequently today's wells must be drilled to much greater depth at much greater cost to reach productive oil sands. Drilling and exploration costs are about 400% higher than 25 years ago and the odds of finding even marginal production are far more adverse.

And unlike a factory which can produce at a constant rate for many years, an oil well dies a little each day. Finally it stops producing altogether—in other words, it

becomes "depleted."

As early as 1918 Congress recognized that, with America increasingly dependent on oil, it had to create an incentive so that men would take the unusually hazardous financial risks involved in the search for oil.

Therefore, Congress wrote a depletion provision into the tax law—permitting oil producers to exclude 27½% of the gross income from their oil or gas property in arriving at a taxable income basis for tax purposes. This deduction, however, cannot exceed 50% of

the property's net income. And, of course, it applies *only* to oil and gas *production*. Other activities of the industry, such as refining, are *not* subject to depletion.

Coal and metal mining—in fact, all "natural resource" industries—have similar tax provisions. Actually, the depletion provision is designed to make up for the inevitable exhaustion of the natural resources man has discovered. And it encourages the costly search for new deposits—needed to replace those that are exhausted. Yet, the provision for depletion is often misunderstood and unfairly indicted.

Experience demonstrates that the national interest has been properly guarded and well served by provisions for depletion. With the depletion provision in effect, America has become the world's largest producer and user of petroleum. Yet we pay *less* for most oil products than most other nations. And, despite record usage, we keep finding more oil than America uses. In a world of wings and wheels, this could well provide the balance of power. Certainly it is the necessary support for an economy that runs largely on petroleum products.

We can be thankful for the incentives that have encouraged men to brave the heavy risks of loss and to continue the increasingly difficult search for new oil fields which alone can replace the old fields that are being used to power our country.



**Lewis W. Douglas** has won distinction in virtually every phase of American life. Prior to serving as Ambassador to Great Britain, he was a Congressman, Director of the U. S. Budget, and a college president. Mr. Douglas is now Chairman of The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York and is the principal owner of the Southern Arizona Bank and Trust Company.

*This is one of a series of reports by outstanding Americans who were invited to examine the job being done by the U. S. oil industry. This page is presented for your information by The American Petroleum Institute, 50 West 50th Street, New York 20, N. Y.*

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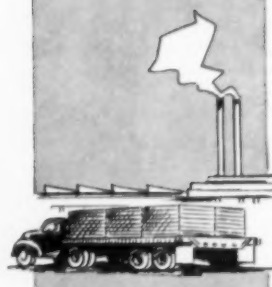
**1,300,000**

**FOR HIRE**



**1,300,000**

**PUBLIC SERVICE**



**4,000,000**

**MISC. BUSINESS**

No discussion of transportation should ignore the question: "Who owns and operates the nation's trucks?"

Well, some 3,000,000 are owned by farmers. Only 1,300,000 are "for-hire" trucks, operated by professional haulers. Around 1,300,000 are publicly owned—by police and fire departments, municipal sanitation divisions, the U. S. mail service, and the like.

The rest—approximately 4,000,000—are owned by businesses of all kinds: manufacturing, retail, service organizations, etc.

Trucks are involved so deeply in your job, your comfort and convenience, and your security that any tampering with America's unmatched transportation system is a direct threat to you—to everybody!

## AMERICAN TRUCKING INDUSTRY



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*If You've Got It . . . A Truck Brought It!*

THE QUILL for December, 1955



Some editors praised the Eisenhower-Wilson letter during the heat of the Army-McCarthy hearing. But federal agencies are using it to bottle up information. A top Washington correspondent asks:

## Is the Press Alert to A Dangerous Precedent On Executive Secrecy?

By CLARK R. MOLLENHOFF

**W**ITHIN the last two years a precedent has been established which I believe constitutes one of the greatest threats to freedom of the press in the United States in our time.

I speak of the May 17, 1954, letter written by President Eisenhower to Defense Secretary Charles E. Wilson. It was written during the Army-McCarthy hearings to prevent Army Counsel John Adams from testifying as to conversations with Deputy Attorney General William P. Rogers and Sherman Adams, assistant to the president.

The letter was only a broad statement on the rights of the executive branch of the government to keep certain things "confidential" and out of the scope of congressional inquiry. It was the broad statement on confidential records that made the precedent dangerous. The application of this letter by a number of agency heads clearly shows why the press should be concerned.

Budget Director Rowland Hughes refused to allow certain witnesses to be questioned and certain papers produced in connection with the handling of the Dixon-Yates contract. Hughes declared that under the May 17, 1954, letter it was his opinion that Congress was entitled to the decisions of the agency, but could not go behind those decisions since papers and conversations involved in formulating policy were "confidential."

Normally, the ability of the press to penetrate executive agencies is pretty much contingent on the power of congressional committees to penetrate those agencies. I've heard of a few hardy journalists who feel they can pry loose sufficient information without any aid from Congress. However, I think that most realists will admit that their own effectiveness in getting information of an unfavorable

character from an agency is pretty closely tied to the power of Congress to move in and document a case.

The Hughes' letter interpreting the one from Mr. Eisenhower to Secretary Wilson set down this principle: The executive department can regard as confidential all of the conversations and papers leading up to a decision. Only the final decision is subject to the subpoenas of Congress.

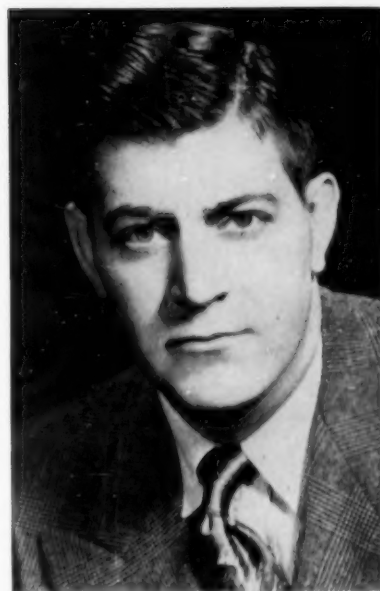
If Congress can't get the information leading up to a decision, reporters can't get it. That precedent stands today as the greatest potential barrier to every reporter who starts an inquiry into the actions or spending of an executive agency.

**I**T stands as a convenient umbrella under which any executive agency head can take cover when questioned by congressional committees or reporters. Fortunately most agency heads have too great an appreciation of their public responsibility to use this precedent. However, enough have used it to make it completely clear how great is the potential danger.

Dozens of times, witnesses before congressional committees have commented: "We consider that information to be confidential under the President's May 17, 1954, letter to Defense Secretary Wilson."

This phrase will be heard thousands of times if the precedent is not changed. Congress, newspaper reporters and the public they both serve should be able to go behind the decisions of government agencies to find the specific actions and motives that went into those decisions.

The precedent of the presidential letter is shifting the burden of proof on access to government records. Under this precedent, the government need not prove why information is "confidential." You must prove why information is not "confidential."



Clark R. Mollenhoff is a member of the Washington Bureau of the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Minneapolis Star and Tribune.

This is not an effort to picture the press today as closed out in the quest for facts by any public-be-damned attitude. This is not an effort to paint this administration as any worse than past administrations. It is difficult to generalize about whether one administration had a better or worse information policy. My own experience indicates that some agencies are better, and some are worse.

The fact that you can get as much, or even more information from some government agency today makes the precedent no less a threat to the press. As long as the precedent remains unchanged, the press can be closed out at any time on the whim of the agency head. Congress can also be blocked.

I do not believe that the letter was any devious act planned to strike at the press. On the contrary, I am sure it was innocently devised to meet an intra-party political problem presented in the Army-McCarthy hearings. However, the fact that the blow was not aimed at freedom of information is unimportant if it puts the press within the range of danger.

**T**HE blow fell directly on the power of congressional committees, and has the potential of seriously limiting the power of those committees to obtain records and testimony. The Dixon-Yates hearings provided example after example of the Atomic Energy Commission, the Bureau of the Budget and the Securities Exchange Com-

mission arbitrarily declaring information beyond the bounds of congressional committees.

Senator John McClellan's special senate investigating subcommittee has run into the same roadblock. A similar experience has been had by the House government operations subcommittee investigating the Interior Department's power policy.

These agencies did not plead that "security" of the nation was involved. They did not plead that loyalty files, diplomatic papers or raw investigative files were involved. They arbitrarily drew the line beyond which it was contended Congress could not go. When Congress cannot investigate, the press is also blocked out. Let's face the fact.

It is not necessary for newspapers to take sides on the various squabbles between the executive agencies and congressional committees that happen to be operated by chairmen of a different political complexion. We should consistently take the position that Congress is entitled to the maximum information unless clear reasons are shown why public policy dictates that the information should not be available.

I would not propose to allow Congress to interfere with the operation of the government by the executive branch of the government. However, when the executive agency has made its decisions, the Congress and the press should be entitled to know what factors went into those decisions. If we are ever barred from going behind decisions, the door is opened for the fixers.

This is not a policy of making war on the executive agencies. It is support of the open-record policy which can save executive agencies from betrayal from within. An open-record policy may reveal a few mistakes, but those mistakes are often less embarrassing than the squabbling over whether records should be produced.

It is necessary to examine the circumstances surrounding the letter from Mr. Eisenhower to Mr. Wilson to analyze whether the principle involved should continue as precedent.

The administration did not wish John Adams, the army counsel, to give testimony concerning conversations with Mr. Rogers and Sherman Adams. Senator McCarthy wanted the testimony in the record apparently to show White House efforts to stop him. In furthering the administration's desire to keep those conversations out of the record, some administration leaders obtained the letter.

That letter set out a general statement on the separation of powers be-

tween the legislative, executive and judicial branches of our government. It stated that certain matters in the executive department must be held confidential, but did not mention the Adams testimony or give any specific reason. Attached was a bulky list of precedents.

I was disturbed by that letter, not because of any argument with what it said. My complaint was with the inference left by what that letter did not say.

No specific reason was given for the refusal to let Mr. Adams testify. There was only the generalized reason that certain things in the executive department were confidential. It seemed to me that this would allow each agency head to decide what records or conversations could be hidden from Congress as "confidential."

I discussed this with Ed Milne of the *Providence Journal*, and found him to be in agreement with my thinking. It seemed to us that this was

---

**This article is adapted from remarks by Mr. Mollenhoff as a member of a freedom of information panel held by the Washington professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi at the National Press Club in October.**

---

an extension of the confidential orbit to a degree that it would be possible to block nearly any congressional inquiry before it got started. *What was equally important was that it would be a barrier to our own right to information on the public's behalf.*

Milne and I wrote stories that day setting out the possible threat to inquiries involved in the letter. We pointed out that if John Adams could refuse to testify as to his conversations, cabinet members and others could seek the same refuge of "confidential communication" when they wanted to cover mistakes or even crimes. We pointed out that the Teapot Dome scandals of the Harding and the tax scandals of the Truman administrations could have been buried under such a policy.

I had assumed that the members of the press would react sharply to such a precedent. I was surprised to pick up well-known and respected newspapers and read editorials lauding the President's letter for its doctrine of separation of powers. The interest of the press—which is the interest of the public—was completely overlooked.

The press had failed to see the threat. It was, in fact, praising the letter and helping to solidify a policy

that could throttle the press if the government ever fell into evil hands.

I called one editor friend who has been active in fighting for freedom of information and I expressed my fears. I stated that the danger was in the fact that no specific reason was cited for Adams' refusal to testify.

My editor friend said he believed the refusal was because some personnel security files might have been discussed in the meeting. I stated that if the sanctity of personnel security files was involved it should have been set out in the letter and that otherwise the precedent would be a broad policy under which any erring public official could hide his mistakes. I did not convince my friend of the dangers at that time. I am thankful to say that he has since come to view the letter with considerable apprehension.

This should not be approached as a political problem in which the Republican administration is the villain. The letter happened to have been written in a Republican administration, and it so happens that some Republican officials have used it to block investigations.

I have no doubt that Democratic administrations will use it in the future if this precedent is not changed. We must face the fact that it is not safe for us to allow any policy to stand under which the agency heads can scream "confidential" and not even make the pretext that security or other specific problems of national interest are involved.

**W**E must also accept the fact that public officials will always be tempted to hide their mistakes or their corruption from public view.

It is the duty of the newspapers to stick together and fight for one thing—freedom of access to information about the government. The burden of proof should always be on the government to prove why information should not be made public. We should never be forced to prove why we are entitled to it.

Those who established this government realized that freedom of the press is essential to a working democracy. Writers since Alexis DeToqueville have commented on the fact that democracy is dependent on an informed public—and an informed public is dependent upon freedom of the press. Whether we like it or not, freedom of the press is dependent upon the ability of Congress to pry loose the details.

There are clear reasons why the press, Congress, and even the executive branch of the government should want the precedent of the let-

(Turn to page 37)

# Grass Roots Journalism Eyes Its Editorial Job

The initial experience of a week of talk and study by the charter members of the National Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors promises a growing stimulus for small town opinion.

By D. WAYNE ROWLAND

**A**CROSS the nation last July many small town editors, too busy this year to get away, waited eagerly for a report from the charter session of the National Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors.

For this was not a run-of-the-mill press convention, advertising clinic, or mechanical conference. The journalism department at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill., took a dream of three men and translated it into a continuing project which promises to be a vital influence for more effective and better informed editorial leadership from America's grass roots journalism.

A paragraph from the editorial page of the Franklin (La.) *Banner-Tribune*, by Editor Bob Angers Jr., spoke common sentiments of small town editors from Virginia to California and from Minnesota to Louisiana who participated in this first conference.

Said Angers: "Ever feel that you're getting a little stale on the job and in need of new horizons to help bring the world about you into a little sharper focus? Well, so did we, and it was with that thought in mind that we accepted an invitation to participate in the charter meeting of the National Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors."

The idea was that of Dr. Howard R. Long, chairman of the Southern Illinois journalism department; Houstoun Waring, publisher of the Littleton (Colo.) *Independent*; and Malcolm D. Coe, publisher of the Pearisburg (Va.) *Giles County Virginian*.

Long, a former weekly publisher and for eight years manager of the Missouri Press Association and member of the University of Missouri journalism faculty, is the type of educator who appreciates the full influence and possibilities of the non-metropolitan newspaper.

Waring, whose paper is one of the country's most respected weeklies, was SIU's first Elijah P. Lovejoy lecturer in journalism. He was a Nieman

Fellow at Harvard in 1944-45, and was this year's Kappa Tau Alpha lecturer at the annual convention of the Association for Education in Journalism. Coe, a former student of Long's, taught journalism at the University of South Carolina before buying his Virginia weekly.

For several years these three men talked and corresponded concerning some plan whereby weekly editors might come together to think, talk, and learn together so they might be better equipped to serve their communities by writing better editorials.

**F**ROM press organizations and schools and departments of journalism a list of weekly editors who take their editorial pages seriously was compiled. The idea of an annual conference on the Southern Illinois University campus was put before them. Only a few weeks later a dozen of them, representing almost every section of the country, spent a crowded week together, probing deeply into the problems of the local community and its relation to national and world affairs.

These charter members of the National Conference of Weekly Newspaper Editors elected Waring president, Coe vice-president, and Long secretary. This small group of serious-minded weekly editors, from ten states, met informally in morning, afternoon, and evening sessions to delve into such topics as developing small town leaders, growing pains of the schools, local and national economic problems and policies, religion in the local community, better town and rural government, the outlook for agriculture and freedom of the press in the small town.

SIU faculty met in these sessions as consultants in their specialties. Earl L. Packer, Washington, D. C., who retired in 1950 after twenty years in the United States foreign service, was brought to the conference for his views concerning the international



D. Wayne Rowland, now on the journalism faculty at Southern Illinois University, is a former editor and publisher of Missouri weeklies and a daily.

outlook. Interestingly enough, these country editors were thinking of this subject the same week of the "Summit" meeting at Geneva.

Dr. Seth Slaughter, dean of the Bible College of Missouri, was selected to talk to the editors about the status of the rural church.

Waring keynoted the conference with the observation that the home town weekly has a duty to interpret the changing environment for its readers. He stressed the importance of "having something to say" rather than "just talking."

"The great untried resource in the field of communication is the weekly newspaper," Waring said. "Of 9,000 weeklies and semi-weeklies, certainly not more than 900 are supplying the news and editorial leadership which one would expect."

"To print the significant news and to provide readers with editorials that lead to intelligent understanding and social action, an editor must have more than a fighting heart. Broad knowledge, kept up to date, is equally essential. Yet it is apparent that not even the elite 900 can comment intelligently today on such varied topics as juvenile delinquency, subsidies, or German unification."

"Granted that more journalism graduates with a liberal arts background should enter the weekly field, nevertheless even they must keep abreast of the social sciences and other fields."

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A master's degree in library science in addition to journalism degrees and experience backs up Eddie Weems' observations on newspaper libraries.

"MORGUES" on many U. S. newspapers are what the name implies—dead.

Only the larger dailies have "morgues" or newspaper libraries worthy of the name, and the name "newspaper library," incidentally, means considerably more in the way of materials and services than does "morgue."

The New York Times has an expansive library containing 35,000 books, 10,000 maps, and countless clippings, pictures, and other material filed away in good order. It is staffed by some eighty persons, if you include those who work on the Times Index.

Cartographers are included on the Times staff. The budget for library department salaries alone is \$250,000 yearly. Such a newspaper library, needless to say, would put a good many college libraries in the shade.

In the hinterlands it seems to be a different story. Many smaller dailies have nothing to pass for a library at all. Of those which do have libraries, many can boast of nothing more than bound files of the newspaper and a few reference books.

An efficient newspaper library, as distinguished from a musty, dimly lighted "morgue" where a person can never find a cut or clipping when he needs it quickly, need not and should not be expensive or large for a smaller daily. However, it should be orderly, up to date, and the sole charge of a conscientious staffer, who might have the job as a collateral duty if a full-time librarian is off budget limits.

Such a library, properly maintained, can yield unforeseen benefits to the

An analysis of some of the potentials of an efficient newspaper library suggests that

## Life in the Old Morgue Can Put a New Spark in News and Cash in the Till

By EDDIE WEEMS

editorial department. Robert Desmond, chairman of the department of journalism at the University of California, relates one instance in "Newspaper Reference Methods" (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press).

A prospective cabinet official was expected to arrive in New York and many reporters were waiting at the depot for his train. However, the expected visitor did not appear. Every important hotel in the city was canvassed, without success. Finally, one newspaper found in its library file a clipping which indicated that the prospective cabinet member had once stopped at a certain private residence.

A reporter found the man there, for he had left the train at Newark and entered New York by automobile. The enterprising newspaper with the efficient reference department had an exclusive interview.

**A** NEWSPAPER library can prove itself in other ways besides uncovering valuable information. It can prevent errors in a newspaper.

The Brooklyn Eagle, before it went out of business, had something to say on this subject in a style book:

"The cardinal principle of good newspaper work is accuracy. The Eagle will insist on getting it. Verify your facts. Don't depend on someone's say-so, but go to the reference books."

By correcting some errors before they get in print, libel suits might occasionally be prevented. A harried editor (or copyboy) will be less likely to grab a cut of "Joseph T. Jones" out of the files to run with a story on convicted criminal "Joseph P. Jones" if the files are orderly and cuts have been returned to their proper places.

Still other services are provided by an efficient reference department.

Keeping a file of clippings and other material on a wide variety of subjects which may figure in the news will provide reference and background material quickly on those subjects. If a

reporter has this additional material, he will usually be better able to write a clear, comprehensive story of higher quality than he could write with only the facts he has in hand.

Tremendously valuable to metropolitan newsmen are the FYI (for your information) memos on file in an efficiently-operated library. These may contain off-the-record quotes, background details on the development of a situation, or details about an individual which for one reason or another were not newsworthy at the time they were developed.

Through the library such background information becomes available to all of the staff so that when the situation or individual figures in any news development, these details, often germane to the new incident, are available.

News presentation may be improved by judicious use of the library's services. For one thing, keeping up with the exchange papers (a job for the newspaper librarian) will show what other newspapers are doing and perhaps give an editor some ideas of his own. And keeping a file of well selected clippings and other informational material will help in localizing wire stories.

A hotel fire with the loss of many lives in a distant city may bring on this question: What safety regulations are in force locally to prevent a similar disaster here? If news clippings and perhaps a copy of the regulations on this have been saved, a local feature to run with the fire story is available. In the files also may be clippings of nearly forgotten local hotel fires which might prove useable in writing a "sidebar" story.

**A**N obvious service of the library is preserving valuable material. Photographs and cuts, for example, are filed again after use against future need. In fulfilling this service the library may save its newspaper a con-





siderable sum of money over the years.

One picture agency executive will verify this. Desmond has quoted him as stating that the financial success of his enterprise is based upon the carelessness of newspapers that lose or discard their photographs. They buy a picture, use it, and forget it. Next time the picture is needed it must be reordered.

Chester Lewis, chief librarian of the New York Times, has suggested other ways a library may make itself useful. It may assist the editorial department by obtaining and retaining biographical data on widely known local people, and it may assume responsibility for preparing a daily question-and-answer column, answering readers' queries.

The Spokane *Spokesman Review* has done well with its question-and-answer column, prepared by the newspaper's reference department. Begun during World War I to answer questions pertaining to the war, the column became a permanent feature after the armistice.

As early as January, 1927—when radio was still young—the Milwaukee *Journal* sponsored a radio program on which it answered questions from *Journal* readers with the help of its reference department.

The services just mentioned are those which might be provided the editorial department, for and under which a library is usually maintained. However, it might prove helpful to the advertising department by pointing out new products advertised in

These views indicate the scope of the New York Times library. Above is the editorial reference library and, below, a section of the clipping files.



other newspapers. The paper's own ad men, then, can go after this advertising locally. It might also assist the business and advertising departments by studying the local market.

The circulation department will frequently find time and trouble saved if the librarian indexes each issue of the paper. Circulation gets many requests for copies of issues containing certain stories, pictures, or editorials. With its index, even a simplified one, the library can often supply the date of such an issue, quickly and simply.

A newspaper library might also make its services useful to the public, and in this way it can earn the paper much good will. If the newspaper is located in a small town where there is no public library to provide reference service for the people, it may open its library to the public for this purpose. This can be in addition to handling a question-and-answer column. Romeo Carraro, librarian of the *Los Angeles Times*, told this writer he believes that reference service to the general public is the most important trend in today's newspaper libraries.

Luther Harr, one-time treasurer of the *Philadelphia Record*, once told a story which illustrates the newspaper library's worth. Neither of two editorial writers had been to Europe, but both turned out weekly articles on European affairs which showed magnificent command of European history and geography, as well as of current events. Each of them made predictions which proved to be accurate more often than not. Both writers made wise use of the library.

"The value of a newspaper library is proved hundreds of times a day, but forgotten as quickly as the ink dries on the newsprint," said Jean Fenimore, as librarian of the *Associated Press*, in 1945. "The library is hardly ever given given a budget of its own . . . its needs are left to the last."

So, in most newspaper plants, particularly in the smaller ones, the "morgues" apparently continue to be dead. But perhaps they will not always be so.

"In the near future every newspaper from the weekly to the metropolitan daily will find it necessary to establish an efficient library. It is absurd to assume that residents of smaller communities will tolerate lack of details or inaccuracies any more readily than their metropolitan kindred," Desmond has stated.

"It behooves editors in smaller cities to meet this demand with greater facilities for reference material if they are to prevent encroachments of the larger city daily over their just realm."

## Grass Roots Journalism Eyes Its Editorial Job

(Continued from page 11)

All the conference sessions ran from two and one-half to three hours, three of them a day for five days. Only a between-sessions picnic supper at Giant City State Park and a showing of the United States Information Agency film, "The Country Editor," which features Waring and his Colorado weekly, interrupted the intensive routine.

Conference participants lived and ate together at one of SIU's new dormitories. There were no cocktail hours or free lunches, courtesy of supply firms, public relations departments, or politicians. Conferees paid \$25 each to participate and \$30 to cover their keep. SIU provided consultants and made arrangements.

THE geographical distribution of communities and newspapers represented by their editors was a valuable feature of the conference. Between sessions the editors, living together, attempted to resolve their regional differences in outlook.

The conference week closed with a drive to St. Louis for an informal dinner and round-table discussion with editorial writers of the *Post-Dispatch* and the *Globe-Democrat* and to attend the municipal opera.

The conference endorsed a program to sponsor a Lovejoy award for courage in journalism, with the charter members to judge the winner and to establish standards for the award. The date for the 1956 conference was set for the week of July 15.

The seriousness with which participants dug into the areas discussed—none of them the cash register related problems usually aired when editors get together—was inspiring to those participating.

The SIU journalism department has watched with keen interest the editorial pages directed by the men (and one woman editor) who attended the conference. The impact continues to be evident. The conferees are exchanging papers among themselves. Their conference-grounded editorials are popping up in almost every state and in many papers, either reprinted or rewritten.

In the time following their return home, participants in the charter conference have made evaluations of the experience in letters to the SIU journalism department, on their own editorial pages, and in contributions they

have made to various press journals. These few quotations indicate how the conference looks to them:

"Looking back over twenty-nine years of newspapering, I cannot recall having secured so much help for my job as I did in those five busy days. I have been to many institutes and conferences, and I have returned to college on several occasions, but this experience was different."

"The conference was exactly the kind of thing which has so long been needed in weekly newspapering. It was a seminar, a refresher course, and a stimulant offered for the benefit of those weekly editors who take seriously their editorial pages. Nothing like it is being attempted anywhere else that I know of."

"The opportunity to be with these editors and to hear the discussion leaders was an unusual privilege. This was a pioneer effort to support and encourage better journalism in the weekly field, a significant contribution to the individual editor, the towns these editors serve, and in the final analysis, to the nation."

"I have long felt the need for an organization that would provide the opportunity for non-daily editors to swap ideas, prod each other's professional consciences, and get some badly needed background information. We got a lot of meat, not pap."

"At last here's a place for the thinking and responsible editor. Most gatherings for the weekly press emphasize the publisher, not the editor, and feature the cocktail parties, the best of hotels, suitable entertainment, and just enough business discussion to permit everyone to enjoy the affair with a clear conscience."

A summarized report of the 1955 conference's sessions has been prepared for limited distribution by the SIU Journalism Department.

Among others participating in the first conference, and not already mentioned, were: Mrs. Edith Boys Enos, Mishawaka (Ind.) *Enterprise*; John C. Obert, Alexandria (Minn.) *Park Region Echo*; Weimar Jones, Franklin (N.C.) *Press*; Howe V. Morgan, Sparta (Ill.) *News-Plaindealer*; Carl Hamilton, Iowa Falls (Ia.) *Citizen*; Roscoe Macy, Windsor (Colo.) *Beacon*; George Murphy, Manteca (Calif.) *Bulletin*; Meredith Garten, Pierce City (Mo.) *Leader-Journal*; and the author.

# Journalism Students Get A Test as 'Interns' On Texas Newspapers

By DELBERT McGUIRE

**A** PROGRAM to ease the shortage of newspaper personnel and to indoctrinate college journalism students through, on-the-job training has been working successfully for eight years in Texas through a unique intern program. The program is a joint project of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association and eight Texas schools and departments of journalism.

Students who have completed their junior year of study and who are in the upper percentage of their classes may be assigned to three months of work on a daily newspaper. Editors and publishers do not use these students as "obit" men or as secretaries, but give them a well-rounded experience in the making of a newspaper.

Assignment as an intern carries an introduction to all areas of reporting: city hall, courthouse, chamber of commerce, sports, and for the women, the society pages. Features are also an integral part of the internship. On some of the smaller dailies, proofreading is included.

The managing editor of the sponsoring paper is assigned as "instructor" and reports each month on the progress of the student, as well as on phases of the work in which the learner is noticeably weak and those in which he appears well grounded. These reports serve schools of journalism by pointing out areas where additional instruction is needed.

The student also sends monthly reports back to his college, pointing out details which are new to him, those assignments most helpful to his training, and clippings of the stories that he handles. At the end of the summer the editor sends a recommendation for a grade to the department head, in the event that the student is to receive academic credit for the work.

Of the eight schools participating, six give credit and two do not. Five schools award three hours of credit for the twelve 40-hour weeks spent as an intern, and North Texas State College gives six hours. C. E. Shuford, director of the department at North Texas, points out that the six

hours is based on two six-week semesters of work by the student, corresponding to the hours he would earn were he on the campus.

After his return to school for his senior year, the intern shares his experience with fellow students in the classroom and on campus publications. He also has a better knowledge of those fields in which he may need additional study.

From two-thirds to three-fourths of the interns are offered positions on the papers on which they work, according to Paul J. Thompson, director of the school of journalism at the University of Texas and chairman of the intern committee for the schools. Because of the priority held by the Armed Forces for the male interns and by marriage for women, only about one-fourth actually take these jobs after graduation.

**P**UBLISHERS agree, however, that the efficiency of the former interns is considerably higher when they do accept newspaper work. And the fact that an ex-serviceman does not go back to the paper on which he trained, or that a coed gets married and follows her husband to another town for a job, does not mean that the newspaper field has lost the benefit of that training.

Trainees receive the beginning pay scale of the newspaper on which they intern, with a \$35-per-week minimum set by the TDNA. Most papers, according to Albert Nibling, editor of the *Sherman Democrat* and a member of the intern committee, attempt to pay the expenses of the trainee for the summer. Some of the larger papers, however, have pay scales that range considerably higher; one student journalist received \$65 a week during his summer internship.

At the end of this summer 155 interns had participated in the program since its inception in 1948, according to Prof. Thompson. In 1948, eleven interns were placed on Texas dailies, thirteen were assigned in 1949, sixteen in 1950, twenty-two in 1951, twenty-one in 1952, twenty-one in



Delbert McGuire teaches journalism at North Texas State College, after newspaper and trade journal work.

1953, twenty-eight in 1954, and twenty-three this year.

"As to the worth of the program, I feel that it is one of the most valuable training grounds for the embryo newspaper reporters that has ever been developed in Texas," Nibling commented. "I have yet to find a publisher who has participated who does not feel that it is a program which should by all means be continued."

A highlight of the program each year is an intern banquet sponsored by the Fort Worth professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi to which all interns, their faculty sponsors, and newspaper representatives are invited. The evening's program of the professional journalistic fraternity consists of a report by each intern on the highlights (or embarrassing moments) of his summer's work.

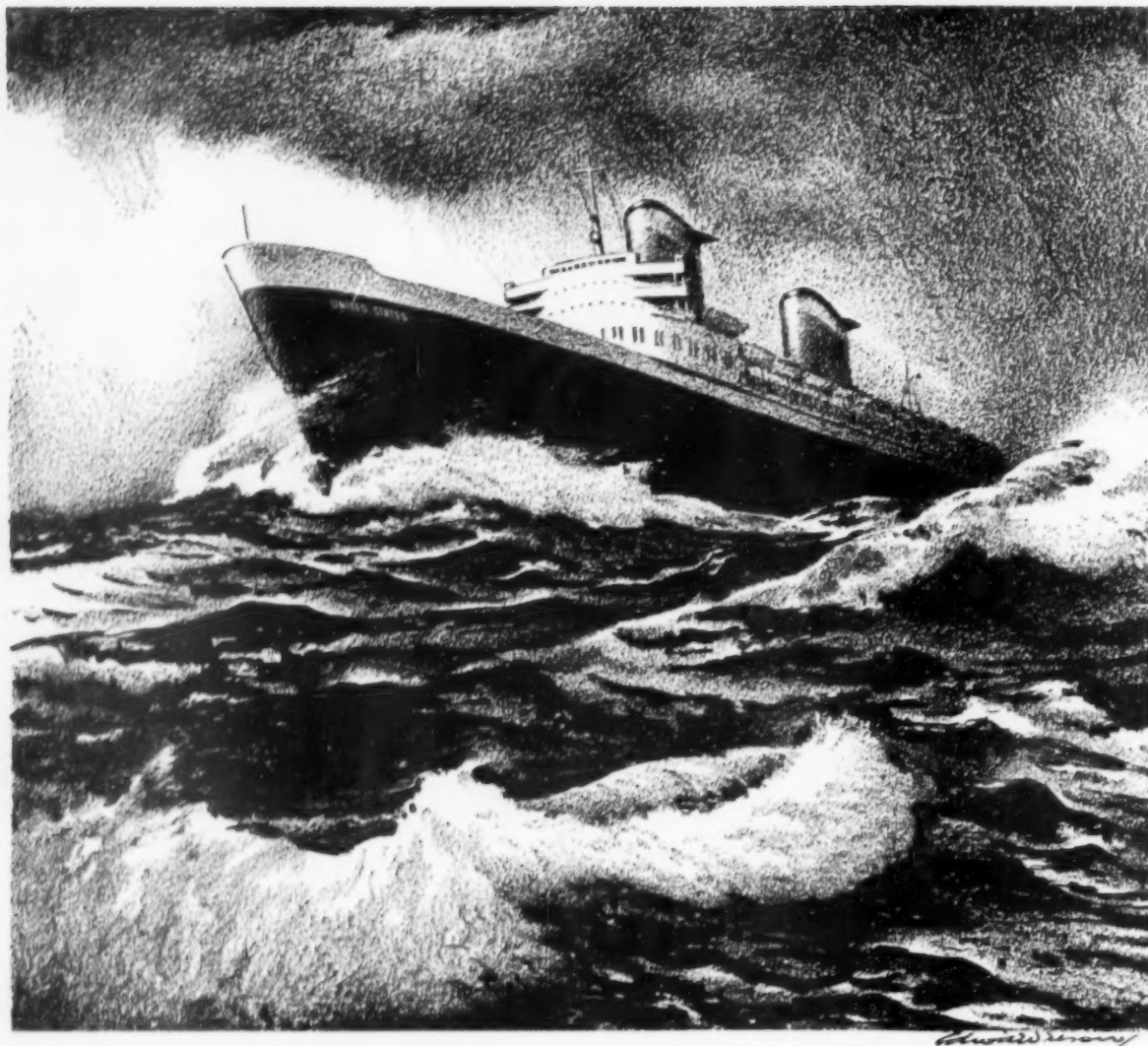
At the 1954 banquet, one reporter noted that she had been assigned a feature on a lonely hearts club meeting in the city in which she worked. She attended without announcing her occupation, and received several offers for dates from men in the organization.

**A**NOTHER intern reported at the banquet that she came back to school for her senior year with a husband, garnered during her internship. TDNA officials and school representatives hastened to point out that this was not a part of the summer program.

One male intern assigned to write sports was asked to look over a ken-

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THE QUILL for December, 1955



# Sigma Delta Chi NEWS

## SDX Elects Alberto Gainza Paz, Mason Smith 1956 Convention to Meet in Louisville, Kentucky



### 1955-56 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Eight members of Sigma Delta Chi's newly elected Executive Council posed for their official photograph following their election at the 46th Anniversary Convention in Chicago.

Standing, l. to r.: Professor Dale R. Spencer, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, vice president in charge of Undergraduate Chapter Affairs; Edward W. Scripps, editorial staff, San Francisco (Calif.) *News*, executive councilor; Ed Lindsay, editor, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, Decatur, Ill., executive councilor; James Byron, news director, Station WBAP AM-TV, Fort Worth, Tex., secretary; Robert Cavagnaro, general executive, Associated Press, San Francisco, Calif., vice president in charge of Expansion.

Seated, l. to r.: Sol Taishoff, editor and publisher, *Broadcasting-Telecasting* magazine, Washington, D. C., vice president in charge of Professional Chapter Affairs; Mason Rossiter Smith, editor and publisher, *Tribune Press*, Gouverneur, N. Y., president; and Alden C. Waite, publisher, *Illinois State Journal* and

*Register*, Springfield, and president, Southern California Associated Newspapers, Los Angeles, Calif., Executive Council chairman.

Not pictured are Buren McCormack, executive editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, New York, treasurer; Executive Councilors Oscar Abel, South Dakota State College, Brookings; James Pope, executive editor, Louisville (Ky.) *Courier-Journal*, and Robert M. White II, editor, Mexico (Mo.) *Ledger*.

Sigma Delta Chi's Distinguished Awards in Journalism contest, for work done during the period from Jan. 1, 1955 to Dec. 31, 1955, is now open. Deadline for entries is Feb. 1, 1956.

Specific information concerning the various categories is listed in the SDX Awards ad on page 35 of this issue.

Nomination blanks may be secured from National Headquarters, Sigma Delta Chi, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago I, Ill.

The Chicago Professional and the Northwestern University Undergraduate Chapters hosted the largest Convention in Sigma Delta Chi's history Nov. 9-12 at Chicago's Sheraton Hotel when the Fraternity's founding objective to raise the standards of journalism, prevailing in all levels of general, professional and undergraduate sessions, was resolved in the SDX 1956 theme—A Free Press—A Free World.

Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz, former publisher of *La Prensa*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and SDX Fellow, was elected national honorary president for 1956.

Mason Rossiter Smith, editor and publisher of the *Tribune Press*, Gouverneur, N. Y., took over the national presidential duties from Alden C. Waite, who will head the Executive Council for the coming year. Waite is publisher of the *Illinois State Journal and Register*, Springfield, and president of the Southern California Associated Newspapers, Los Angeles, Calif.

Alvin E. Austin, head of the University of North Dakota's department of journalism, received the Fraternity's highest award, the Wells Memorial Key, in recognition of his outstanding work for Sigma Delta Chi. Presentation was made at the closing banquet by Floyd Arpan, 1953 Wells Memorial Key recipient.

Selected as Fellows are Walter Humphrey, editor, *Fort Worth Press* and past national president of SDX; Paul Bellamy, editor emeritus, Cleveland (Ohio) *Plain Dealer*, and Harold L. Cross, legal counsel for the American Society of Newspaper Editors and 1953 SDX Distinguished Awards in Journalism winner in the research division.

Sol Taishoff, editor and publisher of *Broadcasting-Telecasting*, Washington, D. C., was elected vice president in charge of Professional Chapter Affairs. Prof. Dale R. Spencer, University of Missouri school of journalism, will be in charge of the Undergraduate Chapter Affairs, while Robert Cavagnaro, general executive of Associated Press in San Francisco, assumes the vice president's duties in charge of Expansion.

Secretary of the Fraternity will be James A. Byron, news director of WBAP AM-TV, Fort Worth, Tex., and Buren McCormack, executive editor of the *Wall Street Journal*, New York, will serve as treasurer.

Executive councilors are Oscar Abel, South Dakota State College, Brookings; Edward Lindsay, editor, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, Decatur, Ill.; James Pope, executive editor, Louisville (Ky.) *Courier-Journal*; E. W. "Ted" Scripps, editorial staff, San Francisco (Calif.) *News*,

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### 1956 NATIONAL THEME A Free Press—A Free World

(Continued from page I)

and Robert M. White II, editor, Mexico (Mo.) Ledger.

The Milwaukee Professional Chapter was recognized as the best Professional chapter while the Chicago Professional Chapter again captured the QUILL award as the chapter contributing the most toward the Fraternity's magazine. Texas Gulf Coast and Northern California Professional Chapters received second and third places, respectively, in the best Professional chapter judging.

North Dakota Undergraduate Chapter, winner of the Hogate Achievement plaque for five straight years, shared the honors this year with South Dakota State Undergraduate Chapter. The Hogate Professional Achievement award is based upon a percentage of graduates who remain in journalism over a five year period following graduation, which disqualified two other top chapters—North Texas State College and San Jose State College—who have not been organized for the specified length of time.

North Dakota also ranked highest among the Undergraduate chapters in character of membership and program, national relations and financial condition in order to win the Beckman Efficiency contest. Indiana University and the University of Nevada tied for second place.

The University of Minnesota captured three first place awards in Undergraduate journalistic competition of SDX campus chapters.

Minnesota entries were judged best in categories of sports writing, campus magazine and best article in a campus magazine.

A complete list of the winners is as follows:

Straight news writing: (1) the Columbia Missourian, University of Missouri; (2) the Wayne Collegian, Wayne University, and (3) the Daily Iowan, State University of Iowa.

Editorial writing: (1) the Miami Hurricane, University of Miami; (2) the Battalion, Texas A&M College, and (3) the Daily Illini, University of Illinois.

Sports writing: (1) the Minnesota Daily, University of Minnesota; (2) the Columbia Missourian, University of Missouri, and (3) the Michigan Daily, University of Michigan.

Feature writing: (1) the Wayne Collegian, Wayne University; (2) the Ring-Tum Phi, Washington & Lee University, and (3) the Miami Hurricane, University of Miami.

Photography: (Spot News) Eli Shuter, Cornell University; (Feature) Henry Uschan, University of Illinois; (Sports) Eli Shuter, Cornell University, and (Miscellaneous) Robert Schoonover, Temple University.

Best all-around campus magazine: (1) Ivory Tower edition of the Minnesota Daily, University of Minnesota, and (2) Profile, Northwestern University.

Best article in a campus magazine: (1) Peg Johnson, University of Minnesota, and (2) Dick Elsberry, University of Minnesota.

Best article contributed to an outside magazine: (1) Lawrence Christopher, American University, Broadcasting-Telecasting magazine, and (2) John B. Heflin, American University, the Graphic Arts Monthly magazine.

New Undergraduate chapters were approved by the Convention at the University of Tennessee, the University of Kentucky and the University of Maryland.

F. Dale Cox, director of Public Rela-

tions, International Harvester Company, Chicago, was re-nominated and elected secretary-treasurer of the QUILL Endowment Fund Trustees. Cox has been a Trustee since 1939.

Undergraduate representatives on the Executive Council were Albert Sampson, Grinnell College; Fred Fukuchi, Washington State College, and Lester Crystal, Northwestern University.

A tour of Chicago's newspapers and radio and television stations was conducted for delegates, members-at-large and their guests who arrived on Wednesday. That evening the Chicago Press Club and the Chicago Professional Chapter of Sigma Delta Chi were hosts for a reception and buffet supper at the former's club rooms in the Sheraton Hotel.

In extending to all of you my greetings on the occasion of your annual convention, I congratulate Sigma Delta Chi on its continuing efforts to raise the standards of journalism.

An integral provision of the Constitution guarantees to the people freedom of the press, a freedom essential to their enlightened discharge of the obligations of citizenship in our republic. The preserving of this freedom—with regard for the demands of national security—and the striving for truth and accuracy on the part of those whose job it is to keep our people informed, will serve to protect all our freedom and further our nation's future strength and progress.

All of you have my warm best wishes for a fruitful meeting.

Dwight D. Eisenhower

(Read at Thursday morning's opening session.)

I feel highly honored in having been elected national honorary president of Sigma Delta Chi for 1955-56. In expressing my sincere gratitude for such an honor and mark of esteem, I renew my pledge of cooperating in spirit and deed with my fellow members in pursuance of the ideals of our Fraternity. Looking forward to being with you next November. Warmest personal regards.

Alberto Gainza Paz

Another feature of the Press Club was the exhibit of Great Chicago News Events in Pictures. The display was made possible by the four Chicago dailies: American, Daily News, Sun-Times and Tribune.

SDX members who pre-registered for the Convention received courtesy guest cards for the Club.

The official opening session of the Convention Thursday morning featured the presidential report of Alden C. Waite. He said the Fraternity is "becoming the most prominent and influential journalistic organization in the world."

Waite also stated that Sigma Delta Chi has its job cut out for it in making better journalists. He listed four main points to accomplish this: "encouraging the right kind of student to enroll in journalism education; helping the students of journalism and especially those who are Sigma Delta Chis to get the best possible training and education; aiding those schools and departments of journalism where we maintain chapters, and helping the members who are already on the job."

The University of California Under-

graduate Chapter, as Waite's initiating chapter, presented a gavel to the 1954-55 president.

Claude A. Walker, president of the Chicago Professional Chapter and editor and publisher of the Forest Park Review, and Alvin E. Orton, general chairman of the 1955 Convention Committee and chief of the Chicago Associated Press bureau, extended a welcome and greetings.

The national officers' and standing committee reports were accepted, and the Executive Council report, delivered by Chairman Robert U. Brown, president and editor of Editor & Publisher, was approved.

Brown brought the Convention up to date on the status of new and delinquent chapters, announcing that the Central Texas Professional Chapter, approved by the Council, has been installed at Waco, Tex. The Des Moines and Philadelphia Professional Chapters lost their charters during the past year because of delinquencies. Approval has been given the Southern Illinois Professional Chapter for initiation privileges.

Further business Thursday morning concerned convention endorsement of the principle of a program of recruitment of bright high school graduates for the journalism profession, and a Sigma Delta Chi sponsored tour of South America. Floyd Arpan of Northwestern University was entrusted with developing the latter.

The Executive group voted to earmark \$1000 of general treasury funds to start a fund offsetting the high travel expense hitting the Undergraduate chapters sending delegates to Convention either on the east or west coasts. A committee will be set up to present a formal plan next year for enlarging the fund.

In conclusion of the morning's session, Brown said that Sigma Delta Chi has today more influence and prestige in the journalistic profession than ever before in its history. He commented, "I won't say that Sigma Delta Chi has arrived yet, but it's certainly in high gear in a 1956, 250 horse power model, and it's going places."

Dr. Albert Gainza Paz, scheduled to speak at the Thursday luncheon, was unable to be present. The former publisher of La Prensa telegraphed his regrets of "not being able to address Sigma Delta Chi."

Paul Smith, president of Crowell-Collier Publishing Company, flew to the Convention from San Francisco on short notice when his regularly scheduled Saturday address was moved up to replace the vacancy left by Gainza Paz.

He told his audience that he is "intrigued by our future in the world of communications since the future of the whole free world is tied up with it."

Smith made the point that television, radio and newspapers should augment each other in the presentation of news since the job of all three is basically the same, the dissemination of information. To this he added that "one of the good things about Sigma Delta Chi is that there are men from all media and these media are basically the same."

The Collier's editor also pointed out that we in this country are enjoying a new wave of optimism for the future. He thanked the Kremlin for "being troublesome enough to make us be as great as we can; to be aggressive and tough."

Smith concluded his talk by saying that after being a journalist for 25 years, "I find the news more exciting to me now than ever before. The challenges of

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## PRESIDENTS OF SIGMA DELTA CHI



Roy W. Howard, chairman of Scripps-Howard Newspapers Executive Committee, and honorary president of Sigma Delta Chi, addressed the Convention Thursday evening. His topic concerned "A Look at the Assignment Book."



Past and Present—Robert U. Brown, president and editor of *Editor & Publisher* (L.), served as SDX's 1953-54 president, ending his term of Executive Council chairman at the past convention. Mason Rossiter Smith will serve as president for 1955-56.



Immediate Past President Alden C. Waite, publisher, *Illinois State Journal and Register*, Springfield, and president, Southern California Associated Newspapers, Los Angeles, will assume Brown's duties as Executive Council chairman for the coming year.

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journalism in the future will be more exciting than ever before. For we will live in a world of crisis for some time but that provides both danger and great opportunity."

Presiding at the luncheon was Mason Rossiter Smith, vice president in charge of Professional Chapter Affairs. The invocation was given by the Rev. Harold Blake Walker, pastor of Evanston's First Presbyterian Church.

The Convention was welcomed to Chicago and the State of Illinois by John W. Chapman, lieutenant governor of Illinois, who briefly traced the development of journalism in the state of Illinois, paying particular attention to the importance of the communications media in the growth of Chicago.

He concluded by praising the traditions of a free press and the importance of the press in a free America and said, "with the enthusiasm and sincerity so characteristic of Midwest America—Illinois is indeed proud to be host to Sigma Delta Chi."

Sol Taishoff, Sigma Delta Chi secretary, opened the Thursday afternoon forum on "Television News: Where Do We Go From Here?"

Donald Coe, ABC-TV director of Special Events, was the first speaker. He said the next advancement in television will be up to engineers who will have to make television less costly and more efficient.

Coe stated, "What's public should be public for everyone," and pointed out that television is the only media that can solve the overcongestion of courts.

The next panelist was John Day, director of News and Special Events at CBS-TV, who centered his statement around the comment that television programs are getting longer and more complete.

William R. McAndrew, NBC TV director of News and Special Events, said the biggest road block to TV news is the technical aspect. According to him, four prospective types of transoceanic television are: great circle, the moon, re-

flection against earth satellites and brute force.

"Perhaps what can be shown live from Cuba this week," he said, "will be done live from Europe in three to five years." Touching another problem, he stated that three ways television will improve are greater speed in getting films to processors, greater speed in processing and reduction in grainage.

The last man on the forum was Spencer Allen, WGN-TV news director, who talked on the local news angle. He announced that in the recent "triple murder" case, Chicago TV reached a point of maturity in that they used good taste in pictures. He also pointed out that newspapers can use as much news space as they need, but television must fit the news to the time available. Allen suggested de-emphasis on scoops and greater coverage of the available news.

The fears and misunderstandings that university journalists and administrators have toward each other were termed the two biggest problems facing campus journalism at a discussion of "Can Freedom of the Press Exist on the College Campus?"

Speaking on this problem were Dr. Charles Allen, chairman of the Publications Board, Northwestern University, and Prof. S. G. "Chris" Savage, supervisor of Campus Publications, Indiana University.

Saying that freedom of the press isn't an abstract concept, Allen maintained that most university administrators are afraid that campus journalists will go off half-cocked on campaigns without realizing the responsibility they owe their schools.

He added that the administrators of most universities might feel differently about this problem if more campus newspaper editors showed more maturity—along with an added sense of responsibility.

Speaking on the same subject, Savage said he believed it is essential that the college editor doesn't write something "in the heat of passion," but carefully

thinks out his stories before "dashing to a typewriter."

Both speakers came out solidly against any censorship—or pre-publication "blue-pencilling" of stories—on the campus. They both said they would quit their positions on campus publications boards if this happened.

Allen outlined a four point program of those responsibilities campus newspapers owe their schools as follows: (1) their primary duty is to cover the campus as adequately as they can; (2) campus editors must realize the problems university administrators face, and they must sympathize with these problems; (3) the newspaper must consider the people in their community—"this is especially important for private universities," (4) and they often forget the duty they owe their alumni.

He also emphasized that the university newspaper must never try to destroy anything . . . "they must only try to better things."

In his talk, Savage brought out the fact that the campus journalist is an amateur and "the faculty adviser must serve as the experience he lacks."

He also said students should always take into consideration the fact that youth is characteristically rebellious and they "shouldn't let this natural rebellion get the best of them."

Savage emphasized that too many times campus editors forget that they have a newspaper monopoly at their schools and must be on special guard not to abuse this monopoly.

Both Savage and Allen pointed out that many times campus editors complain that there isn't press freedom on the campus when it actually exists. "It's just that some students are too lazy to go out and dig up stories . . . they expect stories handed to them on a silver platter by the administration."

Running concurrently with the Undergraduate sessions, Charles H. Campbell, director of British Information Service, Washington, D. C., discussed the news content of newspapers today and their

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responsibility at the Professional session.

Title of his topic, "As Pigeons Feed Their Young," was borrowed from Shakespeare, and Campbell explained that he had two reasons for doing so.

One was that this topic was broad enough to cover anything that he might choose to discuss, and the second was that he liked to think of a newspaper in connection with a pigeon stuffing her young—the stuffing in this case being news.

He dwelled on the choice of news matter in relation to a well rounded news digest. Campbell listed three means by which editors could balance the news diet of their readers.

First the British Information Service director suggested to the newsmen that papers allocate more of their news budgets for news from abroad.

The second suggestion dealt with the actual intelligence used in the selection of the news matter. "Most of the news agencies of today offer background pieces that the editor may have for the asking. More interpretation of foreign news and fuller treatment will urge the news agencies to give more news and of better quality in the future," he added.

The third and final suggestion made by Campbell was that a newspaper has numerous sources for background in its own community if it cares to dig them out. "Teachers, ministers and other travellers can easily provide such material and will usually do so in a cooperative manner," he added.

In a closing comment, the prominent newspaperman said, "I well remember how years ago I used to throw city news into papers with a shovel—and without regard to what happened to telegraph news. I got my picture of the world news elsewhere."

"I had no idea of what I was doing to the reader's mind. Any intelligent editor who can conscientiously say that he would feel well informed about the world if he had no other source of news but his own newspaper must be putting out a pretty good one."

Roy H. Howard, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Scripps-Howard Newspapers and national honorary president of Sigma Delta Chi, stressed the importance of raising the standard of the word "journalist" to a professional status in American minds when he addressed the Thursday evening dinner audience.

The New York editor pointed out how much schools of journalism have lifted and broadened the educational base on which present-day editorial workers build their careers. He contended that in view of the extent to which Americans depend upon the press for their knowledge of governmental action, the job of reporting and editing the national and international news has taken on greater significance during the present generation than ever before in the history of American newspapers.

Howard made a serious plea for the "legitimizing" of the word "journalist" which, he said, has acceptance throughout the civilized world, except in the United States. He contended that the word "newspaperman" is vague and non-definite, even in the United States, and that it has all sorts of connotations abroad, where the word "journalist" is limited strictly to those professional people engaged in the collection, writing and processing of news, news commentary and editorial opinion.



1953 Wells Memorial Key Recipient Floyd Arpan, Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism (r.), presents the 1955 Key to Alvin E. Austin, head of the department of journalism at the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. Austin served as vice president in charge of Undergraduate Chapter Affairs for the past two years.

It was Howard's idea that Sigma Delta Chi, working with whatever other forces seemed desirable and competent, should attempt the establishment of minimum levels of education and aptitude which, when met, would qualify the applicant for professional journalistic status.

His belief was that the working newspaperman, the public and newspapers themselves, would all suffer if the spirit of adventure, the spiritual quality and other long established characteristics of journalistic work were allowed to fade out.

Host for the Thursday dinner was the Chicago Newspaper Publishers' Association, with Robert U. Brown, chairman of the Sigma Delta Chi Executive Council, presiding.

Russ Stewart, president of the association and general manager of the Chicago Sun-Times, was toastmaster for the evening. Morton Downey and his trio, flying from New York, entertained at the dinner. The Coca-Cola Company who also hosted the reception preceding the dinner brought the foursome down for the special engagement.

Highlighting the evening's activities were the special presentations of the Hogue Professional Achievement Award by Prof. Dale R. Spencer, School of Journalism, University of Missouri, and of the Beckman Efficiency Award by Robert Cavnano, general executive of the Associated Press, San Francisco.

"The Undergraduate phase of Sigma Delta Chi—is the original, and still undoubtedly the most important arm of the Fraternity," is what Alvin E. Austin, vice president in charge of Undergraduate Chapter Affairs and head of the department of journalism at the University of North Dakota, said in the keynote address of the Undergraduate meeting Friday.

Austin went on to point out that from evidence seen in the Beckman Efficiency report and chapter visitations, only about one third of the chapters are operating in excellent fashion. He said that of the other two thirds, one third are "so-so" and the last third "are just plain poor."

The reason for the failure of many chapters to operate efficiently was said by Austin to be money problems. He then made a number of suggestions as

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## Chapter Standings In Beckman Contest

Great interest centers annually in the contest of Undergraduate chapters of Sigma Delta Chi for the F. W. Beckman Plaque, awarded annually to the chapter having maintained the best all-around record during the past year.

The order in which the chapters finished was as follows:

U. of N. Dakota .....	95
Indiana University .....	85
U. of Nevada .....	85
State U. of Iowa .....	84
Ohio University .....	84
U. of Missouri .....	81
N. Texas State .....	81
Oklahoma A. & M. ....	75
De Pauw University .....	74
Northwestern U. ....	71
S. Dakota State .....	71
U. of Oklahoma .....	71
Iowa State College .....	70
Oregon State .....	70
Pennsylvania State .....	69
Washington & Lee .....	68
Marquette U. ....	66
American U. ....	65
Kent State .....	65
Texas A. & M. ....	65
U. of Houston .....	64
U. of Wisconsin .....	64
U. of Illinois .....	63
U. of Minnesota .....	62
Washington State .....	62
U. of Florida .....	60
U. of Colorado .....	60
Grinnell College .....	60
Temple University .....	59
Drake University .....	58
U. of Georgia .....	58
U. of California .....	57
San Jose State .....	57
Stanford .....	57
Syracuse U. ....	57
Wayne University .....	57
Michigan State .....	56
Montana State U. ....	56
Southern Methodist U. ....	56
U. of Miami .....	55
Cornell University .....	54
U. of Texas .....	53
U. of Nebraska .....	50
Ohio State .....	50
U. of Oregon .....	50
Baylor University .....	48
U. of Idaho .....	48
Louisiana State U. ....	45
U. of Michigan .....	43
Kansas State .....	41
U. of Kansas .....	41
U. of New Mexico .....	41
U. of Utah .....	41
U. of Washington .....	39
Purdue .....	35
U. of Alabama .....	34
Butler University .....	34
U. of S. California .....	6
Boston University .....	5



## How Chapters Rated for Hogate Trophy

The Kenneth C. Hogate Professional Achievement Trophy, awarded annually to the Undergraduate chapter of Sigma Delta Chi having the greatest percentage of its graduates of the last five years actively engaged in journalism, was shared by the University of North Dakota and South Dakota State College Undergraduate Chapters, with a percentage of 100.

The standings of the chapters are given below:

Chapter	Per Cent in Journalism
North Dakota	100.00
So. Dakota State	100.00
North Texas State	100.00
San Jose State College	100.00
Missouri	98.83
Indiana	96.23
Oklahoma	96.00
Oklahoma A & M	95.00
Northwestern	93.57
Kansas	92.86
Minnesota	92.11
Southern Methodist	90.00
Texas A & M	90.00
Ohio University	89.36
Houston	88.89
Stanford	87.50
Nebraska	85.29
Iowa	84.06
Texas	81.82
Georgia	78.69
Cornell	78.57
Washington & Lee	77.78
Kent	77.78
Michigan State	77.36
Oregon State	76.47
Iowa State	75.00
American University	75.00
Montana	74.19
Florida	73.08
Louisiana State	72.73
Marquette	72.50
Wayne	72.22
Oregon	69.70
Illinois	69.33
Washington State	67.86
California	67.65
Michigan	67.65
Temple	66.67
Miami	66.67
Penn State	63.64
Kansas State	62.79
New Mexico	62.50
Washington University	60.66
Colorado	54.35
Alabama	53.66
Drake	51.85
Nevada	50.00
Syracuse	50.00
Ohio State University	48.98
Grinnell	42.86
DePauw	41.67
Baylor	40.00
Wisconsin	32.74
Butler	25.00
Idaho	23.08
Purdue	9.07

THE QUILL for December, 1955



The Undergraduate chapters of the University of North Dakota and South Dakota State College shared top honors in the Hogate Achievement Contest. The plaque was presented Thursday evening by Professor Dale R. Spencer, University of Missouri's school of journalism, and SDX executive councilor, Miles Green (l.) represented South Dakota State, and Wendell Hanson was North Dakota's delegate.

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to how the chapters can have a strong professional program without spending much money. He suggested that chapters invite local professional people, a local chapter alumnus or respected community figures to speak at a chapter meeting.

Another point that Austin made was that many chapters fall down in the keeping of records. He submitted that the Beckman report, properly presented, could be not only a chance to aid the chapter but an excellent experience in documentary reporting as well.

Austin also said that the job of vice president in charge of Undergraduate Chapter Affairs is devoted mainly to helping delinquent chapters and because of this the good chapters are unfortunately neglected. "But," he said, "thank goodness, they seem to keep rolling right along, needing only a minimum of guidance and supervision."

Before the Undergraduate meeting, a chapter advisers' breakfast was held. Hosts for the breakfast were the Northwestern University and University of Illinois chapters. They informally discussed mutual problems.

Finance is one of the biggest and most threatening problems facing Undergraduate chapters, according to Indiana University journalism professor, Chris Savage, who chairmanned the Friday morning forum on money matters.

He divided money raising programs into two categories—professional and non-professional. "Activities coinciding with the chapter's professional aims are most desirable," Savage said.

Pennsylvania State University's "Who's Who" publication; a sports calendar at the University of Southern California and humor and news magazines are some of the ways chapters have been able to combine Fraternity objectives with fund raising projects.

Social events—like the SDX dance at the University of Nevada—are other ways Undergraduate chapters have found to keep in the black. The University of Missouri is sponsoring a "Miss

Mizzou" contest. The winner and runner-up photos will be used to illustrate a calendar to be sold to students.

Many Undergraduate chapters bolster their treasuries by charging more than the national initiation dues of \$17.50. For some of them it's the only way to get around university rules prohibiting any fund raising activities.

The panel reached the conclusion that a majority of chapters throughout the United States should take advantage of this source of revenue. The group—which included Paul Finch of Nevada and Norman Larson of Minnesota, along with Savage—emphasized that there's a way to raise money if there's a will to do it.

Sponsoring smorgasbords to promote state press conventions was listed by Undergraduate chapters as a top way in strengthening Professional programs.

Chairmanned by Prof. Dale R. Spencer, Delegates Ronald Leik, Penn State, and Wendell Hanson, North Dakota, reviewed the activities of their chapters in this line.

Also listed in the Friday morning forum were Fraternity sponsored field trips, publication of journalism handbooks to be distributed to small weekly

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## Sigma Delta Chi NEWS

Managing Editor . . . . . Nola Murchison

Assistant Managing Editor . . . . . Les Crystal, Northwestern University

Staff: Robert Lissit, Northwestern University; Paul Wasserman, University of Southern California; Don Wakefield, University of Houston; Joe Dave Scott, Southern Methodist University, and William D. Byers, Wayne University.

December

No. 39

## Around and About Convention



(left)

Discussing old times are Past President Charles C. Clayton, assistant to the publisher, St. Louis (Mo.) *Globe-Democrat*; Executive Councilor John W. Colt, managing editor, Kansas City (Mo.) *Star*, and Mason Rossiter Smith, editor and publisher, *Tribune Press*, Gouverneur, N. Y., vice president in charge of Professional Chapter Affairs.

(right)

Chicago's biggest news stories were exhibited at the Chicago Press Club during the Convention. The display was made possible by the four Chicago dailies: *American*, *Daily News*, *Sun-Times* and *Tribune*.



(left)

Isaac Gershman, managing editor of the City News Bureau, and chairman of the News-A-Rama Tour committee, points out a picture of the St. Valentine's Day massacre, whose site was included in the tour, to Milton J. T. Shieh, publisher of the *Shin Sheng Pao Daily News*, Formosa.

(right)

A popular event on the Convention's program was the Friday afternoon News-A-Rama Tour which included Chicago's most famous and infamous landmarks.



(left)

Enjoying Thursday evening's reception, sponsored by the Coca-Cola Co., was Donald D. Burchard, Texas A&M College's journalism department head; Mrs. Robert Mathes, Peru, Ind.; Mrs. Irvin S. Farman, Fort Worth, Tex.; Eugene R. Miller, Fort Worth, Tex., and Robert Mathes, Peru, Ind.

(right)

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Scripps, San Francisco, Calif., and Mrs. Stuart Bohacek, Wilbur, Neb., appear to be admiring some of the hors d'oeuvres selected by Mrs. Bohacek at the Coca-Cola party.



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newspapers and printing newsletters to be sent to members and alumni.

The inefficient chapter adviser and the campus politician came under fire by two student delegates speaking at a SDX Undergraduate panel on the "Problems of National Liaison."

Michael McGinnis of Stanford University said that sometimes a chapter doesn't have adequate liaison with National Headquarters—or even an adequate local program—because the chapter adviser is inefficient and "doesn't have anything on the ball."

But he was quick to say that this happens in only a minority of chapters, adding that "sometimes students will blame the adviser for their own shortcomings."

On the other hand, Edward Johnson of the University of Florida blamed some of the problems of national liaison on the student who runs for chapter president not because he is the most capable, but because he wants to use the SDX presidency as a political stepping stone on his campus.

"In cases like this," said Johnson, "the chapter should take part of the blame for electing this type of individual."

The panel, which was moderated by Prof. Floyd Arpan of Northwestern University, also blamed National Headquarters for some of the liaison problems.

Both McGinnis and Johnson said that many times National Headquarters has a faulty record system which misplaces chapter correspondence or requests things that have already been turned in.

Johnson added that in a great many cases this criticism can also be made of the local chapter.

Many chapters, he noted, have no real record system and just put things away, forgetting about it and then getting in trouble with National Headquarters for not turning them in.

Johnson urged that all chapters establish some kind of coherent office system so that problems like this wouldn't occur. He also emphasized that in a great many chapters all the work falls on the top three officers which causes a great many problems.

Professionally, Friday morning, informal roundtable discussions were held on the following topics: Daily Newspaper, John Colt, managing editor, Kansas City (Mo.) *Star*; Radio and Television, James Byron, news director, Station WBAP AM TV; Weekly Newspaper, Ken Clayton, co-publisher, the Raytown (Mo.) *News*; Public Relations, Al Bates, Selva & Lee, New York City.

Friday's luncheon was held in the new Prudential building on Randolph street. Herb Graffis, columnist for the Chicago *Sun-Times*, was toastmaster, and Mayor Richard Daley extended Chicago's greetings. On behalf of the Fraternity, President Alden C. Waite presented a certificate of appreciation to Frank Thayer, University of Wisconsin's school of journalism, who has devoted so much of his time and efforts to Sigma Delta Chi.

Following the luncheon, the conventioners were picked up by chartered buses, for the News-A-Rama Tour.

In an address at the Saturday morning breakfast, Edward Lindsay, editor of the Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers and chairman of the American Council on Education for Journalism, said that journalism schools of today are doing a splendid job of preparing young people to enter the field of journalism.

Lindsay emphasized the importance of training the future journalists to be able to say something about a given topic and to be able to do so in a capable manner.

He pointed out that too many schools use the word "journalism" before a course number as a catch-student phrase and do not pretend to train students for professional journalistic jobs upon their graduation.

The well-known editor noted two definite trends in journalism education.

First, the emphasis upon professional objectives which tends to winnow out those schools that do not intend to take journalism education seriously. Secondly, the emphasis in the professional schools upon the principles of communications as opposed to making drills in technique an end in itself—make it increasingly important that those who teach journalism and those who practice it have a closer association and a freer flow of ideas and experiences in both directions.

In an effort to meet this, the American Council on Education for Journalism has been working for the last year or more on a simple, accurate and concise booklet on the opportunities in journalism, to be read by high school and college counselors and by high school seniors and college freshmen.

This booklet, Lindsay added, is now at the printers. Five thousand copies will be paid for and distributed in a kind of sampling operation by ACEJ. This is all its budget will stand.

It hopes that communications organizations and individual newspapers, radio stations, television stations, magazines and advertising agencies will be sufficiently interested in preparing for the future to get reprints of this career booklet for use in their efforts to interest high school seniors in journalism as a career.

Of major interest during the Saturday morning business session was the report by the Committee on Ethics and News Objectivity, established last year to begin explorations designed to determine the feasibility of a study in attempting to assess the degree of objectivity on the part of the American press during national political campaigns.

An earlier SDX effort had been tabled because of the difficulties of trying to weigh objectivity on a post facto basis. Recognizing the importance of such a study, the standing Committee again be-



Executive Councilor Robert Cavanaugh, general executive, Associated Press, San Francisco, presented the Beckman Efficiency award to North Dakota Undergraduate Chapter's Delegate Wendell Hanson, Indiana University and the University of Nevada tied for second place.

gan explorations designed, this time, to determine the pros and cons of a study during the 1956 national political campaign.

To this end, the Committee, headed by Norman Isaacs, editor of the Louisville (Ky.) *Times*, laid before the Fund for the Republic last summer a proposal that such a feasibility study be undertaken by the Council on Communications Research, which is affiliated with the Association for Education in Journalism. A \$5,000 grant was made by the Fund to AEJ for the Council to carry out the SDX proposal. The Council met in Chicago early in November and agreed that a study is technically feasible and, in the opinion of the research specialists, potentially highly useful to the press, the public and research.

Requesting the Convention's permission for the standing Committee to continue its efforts, Isaacs reported that a project proposal for an "on-the-spot" study of the daily press' performance during the 1956 campaign would be submitted by the Council on Communications Research and members of the SDX Committee, over the next two-month period, to a representative group of na-

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Ten past presidents of Sigma Delta Chi were presented for a breakfast in their honor Friday morning. Seated, l. to r., are: Willard Smith, the Milwaukee (Wis.) *Journal*; Luther Huston, New York *Times*; Washington, D. C.; Irving Dilliard, St. Louis (Mo.) *Post-Dispatch*; Neal Van Sooy (obscured), Nevada *Appeal*, Carson City; George Brandenburg, Editor & Publisher, Chicago, Ill.; Don Clark, Clark Publications, St. Louis, Mo.; Ward Neff, Corn Belt Farm Dailies, Chicago, Ill.; Charles C. Clayton, St. Louis (Mo.) *Globe-Democrat*; Robert B. Tarr, Pontiac (Mich.) *Press*, and Carl R. Kesler, Chicago (Ill.) *Daily News*. Another past president, Walter R. Humphrey, Fort Worth (Tex.) *Press*, also attended the Convention but was not present for the photo.





In recognition of his many years of service as a national officer and Undergraduate chapter advisor, Frank Thayer, School of Journalism, University of Wisconsin, was presented a certificate of appreciation by Alden C. Waite, president of the Fraternity (l.), and Ken Clayton, co-publisher of the Raytown (Mo.) News, and executive councilor (r.), at the Friday luncheon, held in the new Prudential building.

(Continued from page VII)

nationally recognized leaders in journalism for their judgment as to its usefulness.

If these leading American journalists feel that it will be constructive, the SDX Committee would then have the duty of attempting to obtain funds for the implementation of the project. If said funds are available, the project would then be carried through on a three stage basis: auditing 150-250 dailies; research on the flow of the news, and compiling the attitudes and effect of the project. The estimated cost was set at \$650,000.

In the discussion that followed, an amendment was introduced by Executive Council Chairman Robert U. Brown to include in the study other media, such as radio, television and newsmagazines.

Although Chairman Isaacs was inclined to agree with the amendment, he urged restraint because of the complications of expense and research difficulties involved by such additions.

Therefore, the Convention approved a revised amendment to read as follows: "That it is the sense of the Convention that both the Committee and the Council on Communications Research be



College newspaper, magazine and photography award winners were announced Thursday by Vice President of Undergraduate Chapter Affairs Al Austin. Representatives of the winning chapters and winners of the various awards who were present are pictured as follows: William L. Thomas, Texas A&M College; D. E. Jensen, State University of Iowa; Dave Malone, University of Miami; Les M. Crystal, Northwestern University; Jim McDearman, University of Missouri; Norman Larson, University of Minnesota; Alvin Sokolow, University of Illinois, and Donald A. Kroeck, American University.

urged to give every consideration toward the extension of this project proposal to the related fields of radio, television and newsmagazines."

Two proposals by the University of Illinois Undergraduate delegate, Al Sokolow, for changes in the Undergraduate newspaper awards judging were given to the Executive Council for consideration.

The Constitution and By-Laws Committee made no legislative proposals, and several resolutions, drawn up by the Convention's Resolutions Committee, were approved. Among them was a resolution extending the Convention's appreciation and thanks to the Chicago Professional and Northwestern University Undergraduate Chapters, hosts for the gathering.

Felix von Eckardt, West German Observer to the United Nations, in speaking before the Saturday luncheon, said that there can be no real peace in the Western world until the re-unification of Germany is brought about.

Von Eckardt, who was a member of West Germany's recent delegation to Moscow, said he didn't expect reunification in the near future, but "I do think it will have a good chance of coming about eventually."

He also said that although West Germany and Russia have established diplomatic relations, "we are more than ever in the Western camp . . . we are now part of the Western world and will always be part of it."

Von Eckardt, a former journalist and whose family for four generations were journalists, also praised the free and democratic press in Germany for instilling a desire for freedom in the people.

He also said that Germans are more skeptic of men and ideas today than when Hitler came to power because of the work German newspapers are doing in giving them all the facts.

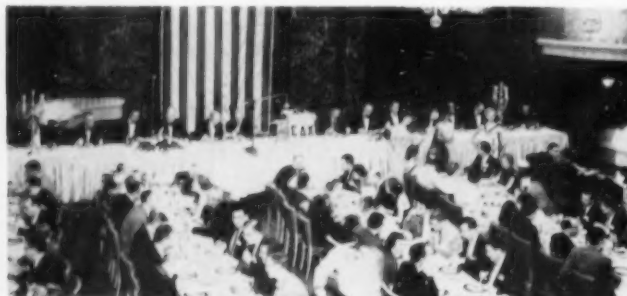
As long as this continues, he said, "what happened in 1933 will never again happen to Germany." He added that "with a free press silenced, Hitler was able to do things he might not have otherwise been able to do."

Von Eckardt also emphasized there should be a give and take attitude between the press and government of a country. "For," he said, "in any democratic country, the government depends upon public opinion for its power—and the press supplies the information necessary to formulate such public opinions."

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Charles H. Campbell, O.B.E., director of British Information Service in Washington, D. C., was a Thursday session speaker. His topic was "As Pigeons Feed Their Young."



A trio serenaded members and their guests at the closing banquet Saturday evening. Attorney General Herbert Brownell was featured speaker, and formal installation of the 1955-56 national officers and executive councilors was held. The Right Rev. Msgr. Joseph B. Lux, managing director of *Extension Magazine*, gave the invocation, and Past National Presidents of Sigma Delta Chi were also introduced.



"Can Colleges Train Journalists?" was Ed Lindsay's topic at the Saturday morning breakfast, sponsored by the *Wall Street Journal*.



SDX Past President Walter Humphrey, editor, *Fort Worth (Tex.) Press*, and Chicago Professional Chapter Member Frank Ling, extreme right, entertain visiting journalists from Formosa, Paul H. C. Wang, extreme left, and Milton J. T. Shieh, unofficially representing China's free press.

(Continued from page VIII)

In this vein, von Eckardt, in answering a question from the audience, said that sometimes reporters like to stress the negative side of the news in order to have a "better story."

"This is especially true for the foreign reporters stationed in Germany," he said.

"It's sometimes hard to write an interesting story on how the government is going along fine," he said, "but it's so much easier to write on what some former neo-Nazi or a political foe of Adenauer says on why things aren't developing properly."

Rounding out the four days of Fraternity sessions, a Model Initiation and Service of Remembrance were held Saturday afternoon, preceding the reception honoring the new SDX president, Mason Rossiter Smith, and the closing banquet. Fourteen candidates, sponsored by the Chicago, Illinois Valley and Central Illinois Professional Chapters and the University of Illinois Undergraduate Chapter, were initiated.

At the closing banquet, Saturday evening, Attorney General Herbert Brownell, a member of Sigma Delta Chi, assailed the recently revealed jury tapping in a University of Chicago research project and praised the press for exposing it.

Brownell said, "By exposing the vice of the jury tapping experiment, the press has, I believe, well served its position

as a sentinel on guard for the deprivation of our rights and liberties. May it ever so continue."

Dwelling at length on the history of the jury system, Brownell said that so long as the law of the land requires that guilt or innocence is to be decided by such a tribunal, the people would need to conspire against themselves before their individual freedom could be abridged.

He continued with "Then there is a close inter-relation between our jury system and freedom of the press. This freedom, which we justly prize as one of the first of the great social blessings, is chiefly indebted to the jury for its vigorous existence."

"And when the press discharges its natural function, fully and in responsible manner, the people, speaking through its juries if need be, will keep it free. The press has a special and peculiar interest in the preservation of an institution which stands between it and any hand which would reach out to destroy it."

Don McNeill, radio and television star and member of the Fraternity, was toastmaster.

The formal installation of Sigma Delta Chi's 1955-56 national officers and executive councilors was a part of the banquet program, and presentation of honor awards to Professional chapters was also



Attorney General Herbert Brownell, speaking at the closing banquet of the Convention, praised the nation's press for exposing jury tapping in a University of Chicago research project. To his right sit Luther Huston, past president of SDX, and President Mason Rossiter Smith.

made. Alvin E. Austin received the Fraternity's highest honor, the Wells Memorial Key.

Next year's Convention will be in Louisville, Ky. when host chapters will be the Louisville Professional, University of Kentucky and Indiana University Undergraduate Chapters. Site for the gathering is the Brown Hotel, Nov. 28-Dec. 1.

## Personals

### About Members

DONALD POSTMA has joined *Steel*, the metalworking weekly, as an assistant editor in the Cleveland, Ohio office. He served with the U. S. Army Counter Intelligence Corps for three years after graduation from the University of Michigan where he received a master's degree in 1952.

HAROLD S. FOX, who has been farm editor and Sunday editor of the *Lebanon (Pa.) Daily News* for the past three years, has been named assistant professor of agricultural extension information at the Pennsylvania State University.



Ambassador Felix Von Eckardt, observer for the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Nations, and Saturday's luncheon speaker, first addressed the audience, then answered questions.

THE QUILL for December, 1955



Shop talk after Thursday's luncheon involved John Day, CBS-TV news director, New York; Paul Smith, president, Crowell-Collier Publishing Co., editor-in-chief, *Collier's Magazine*; James Brooks, Needham, Louis & Brorby, Chicago, vice chairman of the General Convention Committee, and Al Orton, head of Chicago's Associated Press bureau, and chairman of the General Convention Committee.



Advertisement

## From where I sit by Joe Marsh

### Easy Coins A Quick Profit

Hear about Easy Roberts last Friday? I helped him count his money—both before and after—so believe me, the story's true.

*Easy was on the way to the bank to deposit his "cookie jar" savings—exactly \$24.95 in nickels, dimes and quarters. He had them in a paper bag and as we crossed Main Street the bottom fell out.*

Money went flying. Passers-by pitched in to help recover the coins. Later on when Easy counted up, he had \$25.05. The "search party" had turned up all of Easy's money *plus* ten cents someone else had lost!

*From where I sit, I wouldn't want to try this "Easy" way to make money. Usually, it takes time for a bank roll to grow... just as it takes time for a friendship to grow. But by respecting a neighbor's rights—including his right to drink coffee, tea, beer or buttermilk, whichever and whenever he chooses—it's wonderful the solid friendship you can build. You can "bank" on that.*

*Joe Marsh*

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## Obituaries

JAMES C. AUSTIN (NU-'29), a member of the Republican National Committee staff and a former United Press staff correspondent, died Aug. 21 at his home in Washington, D. C.

LAWRENCE L. JACKY (WnS-'27) was killed in a gun accident April 6, 1953.

JOHN M. MOORE, M.D. (UCf-'23) died suddenly Sept. 6 from a heart condition.

E. LANSING RAY (Mo-Pr-'46), editor and publisher of the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*, and former national honorary president of Sigma Delta Chi, died Aug. 29.

ALBERT WILSON EPPERSON (UH-Pr-'52), owner and publisher of the *Morgan County News* (Utah) and the *Summit County Bee*, Coalville, Utah, died Aug. 14 of coronary occlusion.

HENRY REESE (Aus-Pr-'46), editor of the *Gonzales (Tex.) Inquirer*.

WILLIAM BAKER (OkA&M-'51) was killed in a KC-97 aircraft accident May 4.

CHARLES E. ARNN (SoCf-Pr-'44), former executive vice president of the Los Angeles (Calif.) *Daily News*, died Aug. 12 of a heart attack.

HAROLD G. ROETTGER (Ill-'35) died Aug. 10.

JOHN EDWARD PEGUES (SoCf-'37), former assistant to the editor and editorial writer of the San Francisco (Calif.) *Chronicle*, died Sept. 12 of a cerebral hemorrhage. He had been Pacific region public relations representative for New York Life Insurance Co. since 1953.

ROBERT REED (Kan-'31), formerly editor of the Garden City (Kan.) *Daily Telegram* and owner of the *Newsfoto Publishing Co.*, San Angelo, Tex., died Sept. 4.

JAMES A. AUSTIN (Cor-'24), railroad trade magazine publisher and former newspaper advertising executive in Omaha, Neb., died Oct. 2.

GEORGE A. SCHWEPPE (Cln-'23), February, 1950.

PAUL W. WHITE (Cln-'23), July 9.

R. W. GREGORY (Pur-'18), June 2.

VICTOR KEEN (Col-'22), Jan. 30.

FREDERICK I. MASSENGILL, Sr. (SMU-Pr-'49), March 6.

JAMES H. FURAY (W&L-Pr-'31).

EARL CHRISTMAS (Okla-'16).

CHARLES F. GIARD (Ok-Pr-'15).

EARL COOPER (ND-Pr-'54).

D. B. TURNER (Ga-Pr-'50).

THURSE F. SIGMAN (OhS-'31).

HARRY C. ELLIS (UOr-'22).

## Personals

### About Members

MICHAEL RADOCK has been promoted to manager of the public relations publications department on the central office staff of Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Mich.

WARREN BREED, assistant professor of sociology at Tulane University, recently published articles in the *Journalism Quarterly* and *Social Forces*. Titles of his articles were *NEWSPAPER 'OPINION LEADERS' AND PROCESSES OF STANDARDIZATION* (*Journalism Quarterly*, Summer, 1955), and *SOCIAL CONTROL IN THE NEWSROOM: A FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS* (*Social Forces*, May, 1955). Breed is specializing in research on newspapers.

THE QUILL for December, 1955



# Report of the Advancement of Freedom Of Information Committee

*Annual survey, accepted at Sigma Delta Chi's 1955 convention, holds that only public opinion, alerted by the press, can guard the right to know.*

## I

### THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

**I**N 1787, during the Constitutional Convention debate over the proposed American Bill of Rights, James Madison said:

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance. And a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives. A popular government, without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce or a tragedy, or perhaps both."

On August 2, 1955, Rep. John E. Moss, Jr., chairman of the House Government Operations Committee's Subcommittee on Government Information, in a speech to the House of Representatives, asked these questions:

"Do Government agencies clearly and frankly tell the people what is being done by Government servants, giving them the essential background? Or have the agencies become citadels of silence, manipulating information to give the people only facts that are favorable to those who, as Mark Twain said, 'are clothed in a little brief authority.'"

Madison, who won his fight in 1787 for the American Bill of Rights, would be appalled at the answers to Rep. Moss' questions of 1955.

Despite the great story of American progress in human rights between Madison and Moss, there has developed today the worst abridgment of the American's right to know about Federal Government in the 168 years of the American experiment in freedom. And any student of history well knows that human rights cannot long prosper in secret government.

In April, your Committee got out an interim report on freedom of information in the Federal Government based purely on first-hand experiences of leading Washington correspondents. This report exposed a sordid picture of a general "paper curtain" draped around Federal Government; of direct censorship in many departments of executive government; of arrogance on the part of our public servants; of much propaganda for political gain and privilege;

of utter confusion as to the facts in the leading stories of the day; and, in some cases, of favoritism, intimidation and revenge in the release of news of government.

Speaking publicly in Philadelphia, John C. O'Brien, Washington correspondent for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, said:

"The failure of newspapers to give all the government news lies with government officials who seem to regard the public business as strictly their own business."

Stewart and Joseph Alsop, syndicated Washington correspondents for the *New York Herald Tribune*, wrote in the *Saturday Evening Post* as follows:

"It is a very serious matter indeed, and not just for reporters but for every one, when the American Government actively seeks to stop the flow of significant information to the American public. And that is what is happening today, on the specious pretext of 'maintaining security.'"

On September 16, Rep. Moss announced that investigators for his House Subcommittee on Government Information had uncovered 100 concrete cases wherein Federal Government had withheld legitimate news of government from the people.

On September 17, J. Russell Wiggins, executive editor of the *Washington Post* and *Times-Herald* and chairman of the Freedom of Information Committee of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, testified before the U. S. Senate Subcommittee on Constitutional Rights that today there are officials in Federal Government:

"1. Who withhold information about government at the source and deny the people the right to get the facts.

"2. Who censor the press and by prior restraint prevent the publication of information that has been obtained.

"3. Who impose penalties after publication so savage or severe that citizens hesitate to write or speak of what they know.

"4. Who deny access to materials and machinery essential to publication.

"5. Who prevent distribution of printed material or dissemination of information by other means."

But even the foregoing hardly begins to tell the real story of the abridgment of the American people's right to know about their Federal Government today. Con Ecklund, Washington correspondent for the *Milwaukee Journal*, wrote your committee as follows:

"It might be as long as ten years before somebody discovers by round-about ways what has been suppressed."

## II

### THE CAUSES

**B**EFORE proceeding further in this report, your Committee feels that it should discuss, at least briefly, the causes for the development of secrecy in our Federal Government. After much consideration, it is our opinion that the present "paper curtain" draped around government in Washington is due to:

1. The bigness of government.

2. The apathy of the press during the early stages.

Beginning with the Roosevelt Administration in the early thirties, federal government mushroomed immensely, as government reached down into the lives of private individuals during the depression and war years. That mushrooming continued through the Truman Administration and even in the Eisenhower Administration.

There are approximately 2,000 Federal executive departments, agencies and bureaus in Washington today, and it is extremely doubtful that any one man in government knows the exact number.

Even if all 2000 Federal departments, agencies and bureaus should open their doors and make public all their actions and records, it would be virtually impossible financially for the press to maintain a staff of one reporter per department, agency and bureau to report properly the proceedings. Then, too, there is neither sufficient wire time nor newsprint to process properly for public consumption all of the news that develops each day in the 2,000 Federal

departments, agencies and bureaus.

During the dire days of the depression and the hustle and bustle of the war years, the press was pre-occupied to a deep extent with those matters. And, at the same time, it became accustomed to accepting in good faith the proclamations, reports and propaganda issued by Government, without digging for the truth.

So, ignored by press and left largely on his own in Federal office, the politician began to develop the philosophy that the public servant, once elected or appointed, possesses the office as his own private domain; that he and only he has the right to give out or withhold information of government as he sees fit; and that, in his opinion, the people should be satisfied with the decisions of government after they have been made.

Thus developed abridgment of the people's right to know in both the Democratic Administrations of Roosevelt and Truman and the Republican Administration of Eisenhower. And today the press, apathetic and pre-occupied during this development, is confronted with the sudden and grave realization that its freedom is threatened, as well as the future well being of the free American, in an almost insurmountable problem, that will tax all our patience and all our ingenuity to solve.

### III

#### THE ATTITUDE IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

JAMES "Scotty" Reston, Washington correspondent for the New York Times, wrote your committee in May that the lack of freedom of information in Washington today is due to "the overall climate or atmosphere" in which the federal government now operates. Then he added:

"Civil servants now feel that it is unwise and detrimental to their careers to get involved with reporters in any way."

On May 14, Robert Cutler, formerly President Eisenhower's special aide for national security affairs, declared in a prepared address before the Associated Harvard Clubs at Cincinnati that free speech and free press must justify themselves; that the press can't "run wailing to the Constitution"; that only chiefs of government have the right to know; and that the people should be told only after the decisions have been made.

Later, David Lawrence's *United States News and World Reports*, said in its weekly "Washington Whispers" column:

"The President is letting White House aides know that, in his opinion,

the ideal attitude to take in dealing with newspapermen is that of his former aide, Robert Cutler. Mr. Cutler simply refused to discuss matters with reporters, telling them he had a 'passion for anonymity.'"

Your Committee has in its files a letter from Mr. Bernard Shanley, an executive assistant of the President, stating that he agrees with Mr. Philip Young, chairman of the Federal Civil Service Commission, that federal pensions paid to former Congressmen are a matter of privacy, even though they consist of the people's tax monies.

Yet on June 28, Senator Williams of Delaware, in a speech to the Senate, revealed that a former Congressman had reaped an additional \$444 annual pension through payment of only \$10.22, and that three other federal officials had finagled windfall pensions through similar small payments.

On January 14, William G. Ludwick, chief of the Department of Agriculture foreign service, while being interviewed in connection with the Wolf Ladejinsky security case, was asked if government business is not public business.

"It is not and you know it," he replied to the press.

On February 5 a reporter of *The Tampa Tribune* interviewed Secretary of Agriculture Benson, then in Tampa, on Mr. Ludwick's statement. Mr. Benson said:

"We give the public information, but there are times when it is not to the public benefit to make certain announcements concerning governmental functions."

On July 2, Senator Carlson, of Kansas, made public a letter he had received from Secretary Benson, in which the latter gave Mr. Ladejinsky a clean bill of health as a security risk in Federal employ. Secretary Benson, himself, did not give out a public statement even though it was his original public accusation that bedaubed Mr. Ladejinsky with the security smear.

Your Committee took note of numerous similar incidents and snafus during the year. There was, for instance, the case of Secretary of Commerce Weeks and his exchange of letters with Senator Wiley on the St. Lawrence Seaway. Secretary Weeks denied to the *Detroit News* that there were any such letters. Whereupon, the *News* ran his denial and the letters side by side.

King Features Columnist George Dixon summed up the situation neatly when he wrote:

"The head man and some of his franking minions are so security con-

scious they won't issue a statement that February comes after January without clearing it at the White House. The result is that the press 'information' staffs in most of the departments are about as spontaneously informative as the secret-leaking desk at the Soviet Embassy."

### IV

#### SECURITY AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

**B**IGGEST clash of the year between the press and the politician over the people's right to know involved security of the nation. In fact, it became a running engagement, flaring almost weekly.

"Security" is a sacred word, particularly in this atomic era, and no patriotic American, including an editor, would willingly want to risk the danger—or smear—of desecrating it. The politician took full advantage of this and committed many a sanctimonious sin of both commission and omission in its name.

There was the classic case of peanut butter. One Federal agency declined to reveal the amount of peanut butter purchased by the military on the grounds that this would allow the enemy to deduce the number of men in our armed forces. Meanwhile, another Federal agency in an adjoining office reported publicly at regular intervals on the number of men supported by the tax dollars in the armed services.

Part of the general confusion possibly can be attributed directly to the White House. On April 7, Walter Kerr, of the New York *Herald Tribune's* Washington Bureau, wrote:

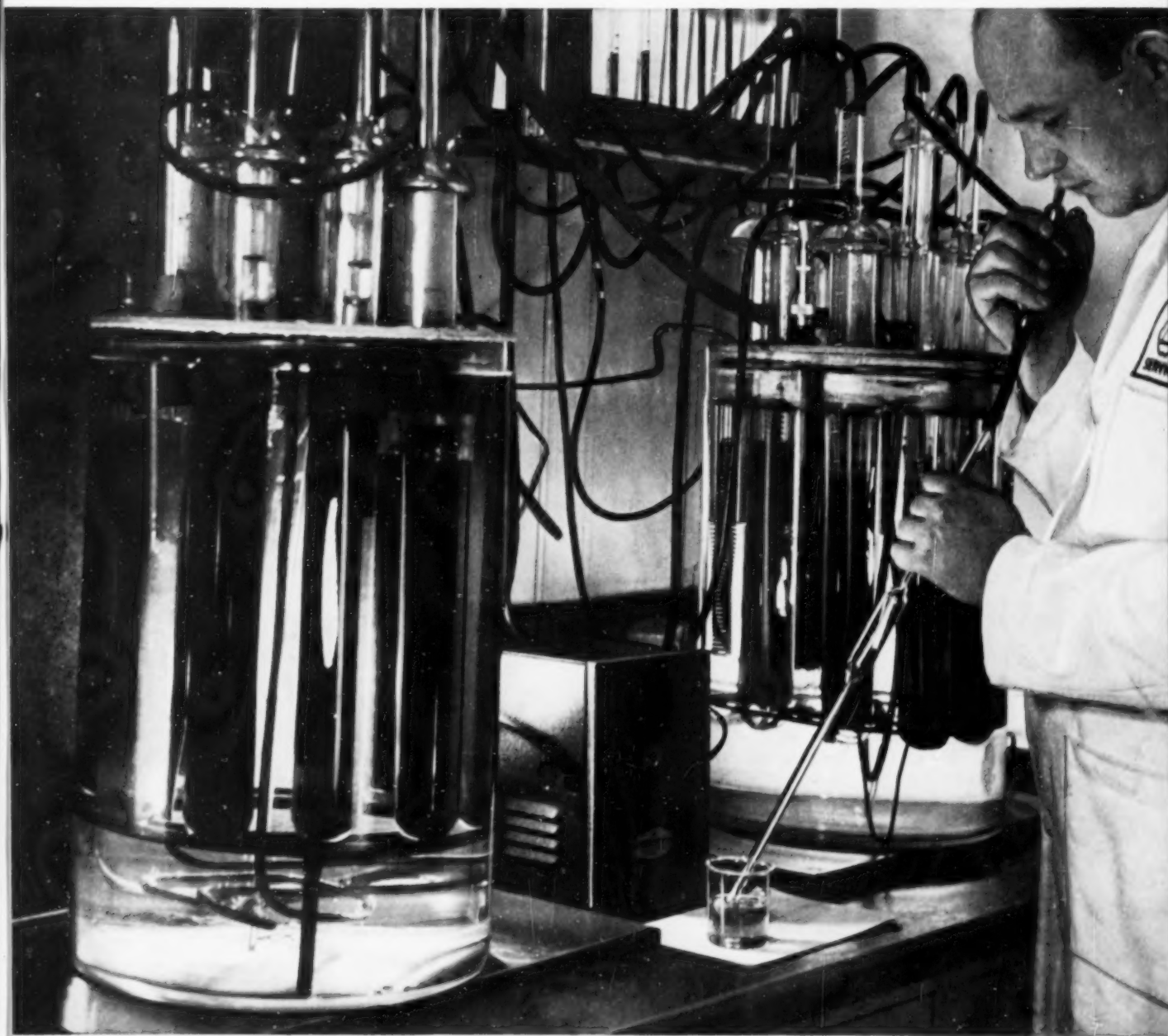
"The President is deeply concerned over what he regards as an excessive flow of military information from this country to the Soviet Union. He thinks the United States is telling the Russians too much. He thinks the Russians are profiting from it."

At any rate, the first out-right governmental censorship in peacetime has been foisted upon the American people in the sacred name of "security" and, because of its importance as the No. 1 obstacle to American freedom of information, your committee feels impelled to trace its development.

On September 28, 1951, President Truman issued his executive order which gave just about everybody in the executive branch of Federal Government the right to withhold information in the name of "security." At the same time, he established officially the censorship classification of

(Turn to page 30)

**GOING PLACES** *into a drop of oil  
with Cities Service...*



Cities Service researchers enter the minute world of the molecule and come out with new and better products . . . for example, 5-D Premium gasoline and 5-D Koolmotor oil. The superior performance of these new products has boosted sales of Cities Service gasolines at double the rate of industry demand.

**CITIES  SERVICE**  
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*Number 15 of a series*



"restricted," "confidential," "secret" and "top secret."

This order was so badly abused by Federal officials that President Eisenhower, on November 6, 1953, in answer to numerous complaints from the press, issued a new security order giving the heads of only 17 Federal agencies and bureaus the right to classify and restrict information of government for security purposes. At the same time, he eliminated the classification "restricted" but retained the classifications "confidential," "secret" and "top secret."

This should have released a mass of information, particularly from the Department of Defense, to the people. But it just didn't work out that way.

On June 1, 1954, without prior discussion, a Department of Defense directive created a new censorship classification "for official use only," which was promptly stamped upon almost everything not already classified "confidential," "secret" and "top secret." The New York Times reported in January, 1955, that the Army's "Field Manual of Operations" carried the "for official use only" stamped on every page, even though this publication contained a thinly disguised attack on the Air Force and Navy in the matter of air power, and was used publicly.

The New York Times also reported that the Department of State, also without prior notification, adopted this new censorship of "for official use only," which, of course, shows that once absolute censorship is accepted in a part of government, it easily spreads to all of government.

In explaining its new classification of "for official use only," the Department of Defense set forth its purpose: "To assure the proper custody, preservation and use of official information which requires protection in the public interests." Later the Department used the word "constructive" as the measure for information it would release, and when the American Society of Newspaper Editors, supported by Sigma Delta Chi, protested, Mr. R. Karl Honaman, deputy assistant defense secretary, elaborated.

That elaboration was classic. Mr. Honaman said that the Department of Defense would release to the people only that information which it regarded as "useful," "valuable" and "interesting." This was so classic that Senator Curtis, of Nebraska, immediately lodged a sharp protest. Whereupon, Mr. Robert T. Ross, the assistant secretary for public affairs in the Pentagon, quickly backtracked.

Mr. Honaman then stepped out of

government service, but the Pentagon, on September 16, slapped a new lid on public information. This was in the form of a new directive urging silence upon manufacturers about some subjects, whether or not they have official secrecy status.

Thus, air-tight censorship marches on in Federal Government in the sacred name of "security" even though 70 per cent of the American's tax dollar is spent on defense; his very life is at stake on the decisions that are handed him after the fact; and, for the first time in American history, he has little voice in either.

## V

### THE BIG DOMESTIC STORIES

**Y**OUR Committee noted with great concern the confusion that characterized all the big domestic news stories of the year.

These stories, such as the debate over the comparative air power of the United States and Soviet Russia, the true danger of the atomic fall-out, the snafu over the Salk polio vaccine, the political dog-fight over the Dixon-Yates power deal, and many others, were marked by much political propaganda and secrecy at the source.

Millions of words were printed during the year on these stories, yet it is greatly doubtful if the American people received the true picture, even though their tax monies and their very lives are at stake.

Space will prevent a thorough analysis of the short-comings of government news on each of these big stories. Instead, your Committee presents, as a fair example, a brief report of the governmental miscue on the atomic fall-out. The Alsop brothers broke this story in the *Saturday Evening Post* and wrote:

"The facts about the H-bomb that are really needed to insure a realistic and informed public opinion are precisely the facts about the H-bomb that the enemy knows already. Our government has sought to hide the bomb's real power, the extent and effects of its noxious fall-out of radioactive particles, and the degree to which it may create an enduring radiological hazard in the air we breathe. Thus our government has hidden from our people essential information that is wholly familiar to the masters of the Kremlin, who also have their H-bomb."

On publication of the Alsops' piece, Admiral Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, hurriedly issued a news release to the press on the fall-out. This release prompted

the New York Times' Reston to write your Committee as follows:

"Admiral Strauss' announcement about the 'fall-out' effects of the atomic bomb is one good case in point. Here's information that, first of all, was delayed for many, many months, though the Russians know all about it, and, secondly, was put out in an incomplete form when it was finally released. There is a great deal more to be told about the effects of the atomic fall-out, and the scientists frankly tell our people in the agency that there is no secrecy involved in it, but we can't pry it loose."

Thus, your Committee can report only that Government did not come clean with the American people on the facts of the atomic fall-out, and that the same criticism can be leveled at Government on virtually every big domestic story that developed in Washington during the year.

## VI

### INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**D**ESPITE Secretary of State John Foster Dulles' more frequent press conferences during 1955, your Committee found the same general cloak of secrecy draped over the Department of State and the release of international news by American Government.

Early in the year, it was disclosed that the Department of State had, without prior notice, adopted the extra censorship category of "for official use only" and had applied it to virtually all data in the department not already covered by the three official categories of "confidential," "secret" and "top secret" and regardless of whether or not they concerned national security. In one striking case, the Department of State applied its "for official use only" to its daily digest of American press opinion.

Your Committee took note of the release of the Yalta papers during the year, including favoritism in endeavoring to give the New York Times a one-day news break on the story, and this, of course, brings up the question of whether it will be ten years before much of today's international news will be given the American people.

On September 15, the New York Times' Reston wrote as follows in a piece entitled "Of Truth and Fantasy:"

"There has been a growing tendency in Washington since the war for the Government to put out not what it knows to be true but what it wants people to believe is true."

"This has been increasingly ap-

(Turn to page 32)

# "A New Era In Motoring Has Begun"

BY GEORGE ROMNEY,

*President of American Motors Corporation*

THE SIGNS WERE CLEAR after World War II. We were entering a new era in motoring. An era of traffic congestion, and suburban living. An era of greater car use for individual and family traveling. An era when new millions of families needed more than one car, because their members had to travel to different places at the same time.

This called for new, fresh thinking. There was a definite need for a smart, compact, economical car.

We built the now famous Rambler, the first car specifically designed for today's traffic and living.

## Has the "gas-guzzling" dinosaur passed its peak?

WE THINK SO.

Too many motorists have driven new cars home to find them too bulky for driveway and garage. Too many have been stunned to discover that excess horsepower is never used, but always thirsty.

We think this is one reason Rambler is the fastest-growing make today. Sales increased 124% in the past year. And Rambler leads the low-priced field in resale.

*Let me repeat. As proof of its sterling worth, the Rambler now officially leads the entire low-priced field in resale value by a substantial margin.*

Rambler's popularity indicates a swing away from bulky "gas-guzzling" dinosaurs to the smarter, more economical, more modern, compact all-purpose car.



## COMING DEC. 15th, AN ALL-NEW CAR FOR ALL AMERICA

MORE ADVANCED than any car on the road, the new 1956 Rambler retains all its proved superiorities.

It is still compact to fit every garage. It still turns sharper, handles and parks more easily. It still gives up to 30 miles a gallon. You can still drive two Ramblers for the cost of one of many makes.

It is more fun than ever to drive.

*All these qualities are combined in a completely new car. This 1956 Rambler is the 1957 model completed a year ahead of schedule—tomorrow's car today.*

### \$40,000,000 safety feature

EMINENT SAFETY authorities agree that the ability of the car itself to absorb impact is the major factor in reducing injuries. Only American Motors Double Safe Single Unit Car Construction, developed at a cost of \$40,000,000, gives you this "built-in"

safety. This is in addition to all safety features offered by others.

We are calling this the All-American Rambler because it has appeal to young and old, to city dwellers, suburban families and farmers, in fact, to everyone who loves a beautiful car that is *more fun to drive*.

Taking full advantage of newest methods of building spacious streamlined trains and airplanes, we have been able to bring you a stronger, safer car with much more room inside, without adding hard-to-park weight and bulk. The Rambler has the space where it can be used, not just looked at.

### New power—New styling

THE 1956 RAMBLER will have a completely new, more powerful overhead valve engine, new springing, new comfort, new style—and the world's first "hardtop convertible" Station Wagon.

### Complete new luxury

THE NEW RAMBLER *ripes out the last vestige of "price class"*. It is as fine and luxurious as the costliest cars—even offers built-in All-Season Air Conditioning. Only needless, tiring bulk and wasteful gasoline consumption are missing.

Put Rambler beside any 1956 car you name. Drive both. We believe you'll choose Rambler as the ideal all-purpose family car, as well as the perfect second car.

Make plans to see it and *drive it* at Hudson dealers and Nash dealers. We are proud to present it as new evidence that American Motors means more for Americans.

*Watch for the All-New, All-American*

# Rambler

TOMORROW'S CAR TODAY

parent in the field of foreign affairs, where professional diplomats too often appear in the role of amateur propagandists."

Then Reston went on to reveal that the Department of State's optimistic report in Washington of the meeting of West Germany's Konrad Adenauer with the masters of the Kremlin in Moscow was in direct contrast to the pessimistic report sent to Washington by the United States Embassy in Moscow.

Your Committee sincerely feels that the well-being and future of the American people will be served only by the truth, hard as it may be, and a constant open-door international policy of stating America's stand on human rights to world opinion.

## VII

### CONGRESSIONAL SECRECY

IN August, the chairman of your Committee spent a day discussing with Mr. Samuel J. Archibald, staff director of Rep. Moss' House Subcommittee on Government Information, the various aspects of the Committee's proposed investigation of secrecy in Government.

During the discussion, your chairman brought up time and again the matter of the secret Congressional Committee meetings, and time and again Mr. Archibald side-stepped the issue. There are, of course, political difficulties in a Congressional Committee investigating secrecy in Congress, itself, yet your Committee sincerely feels that secrecy in the legislative branch of Government poses just as great a problem of abridgment of the American people's right to know as does secrecy in the executive branch.

Congressional Committees held 3105 meetings in 1953 and a survey shows that 1357—or 44 per cent—were secret meetings with press and public barred. In 1954, Congressional Committees held 3002 meetings and 1231—or 41 per cent—were held behind locked doors. In 1955, more than one-third of the Congressional Committee meetings were secret.

Your Committee has in its files a letter from Senator Jenner, of Indiana, written while he was chairman of the all-powerful Senate Rules Committee, admitting that much of major legislation is "railroaded" through the Congress with a minimum of public debate.

Thus, under such a system, where legislation is conceived and congealed in secret Committee sessions, then "railroaded" through Congress, the American people are deprived by their elected representatives of their

inherent right to exercise constantly the pressure of public opinion upon their free Government. And any student of history soon learns that free Government cannot long last in such secrecy.

Therefore, your Committee goes on record sincerely and emphatically as decrying Congressional secrecy as just as great an evil in American government as the secrecy in any other branch of government.

## VIII

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ON THE STATE LEVEL

#### 1.

#### Open Meetings

#### CHARGE AGAINST TEACHER THOUGHT STUDIED BY BOARD

THAT is how a headline might read if information to which the public is entitled was reported as in the following lead:

"An unspecified charge against a male teacher is believed to have been the subject of a closed executive session of the State Board of Education Wednesday."

But the head and the lead were not contrived to prove a point. That was the actual and vague treatment of public information to which the Hartford Courant was reduced in September.

Advances in the continuing fight to keep official proceedings open were made on the State level during 1955. But there were countless examples of the foregoing throughout the nation.

If freedom, like charity, should begin at home, the State-level threat against the public's right to know is just as menacing as that on the higher-level. Your Committee has worked diligently on the lower, as well as the higher, level through the year.

The successes have been encouraging but not mollifying.

Ohio, as of September 30, 1955, now requires meetings of Boards, Commissions, Agencies and Authorities of all local political subdivisions to be open to the public at all times. (State Boards, Commissions, Agencies and Authorities were required to hold open meetings under a 1954 law.)

Utah passed an "open meeting" law covering legislative, State or local agency meetings during 1955. Executive sessions are condoned only if no ordinances, resolutions, regulations, rules, contracts or appointments are approved finally.

Movement to obtain similar laws gained momentum in Connecticut. The Associated Dailies of Connecticut

named a committee to foster it. Anti-secrecy laws passed in the Lower Houses of both the Florida and Arkansas Legislatures, but were killed in Senate Committees in both states.

Nine states now have anti-secrecy laws of one kind or another. In addition to Ohio and Utah in 1955, Alabama adopted its law in 1915, and Indiana, Washington, Idaho, California, Maryland and Louisiana within the last four years.

## 2.

### Public Records

IN Georgia, a proposal to prohibit pre-trial information in certain cases was defeated in the House. This is an example of the incessant attacks and the dangers therefrom in this category of public information and is treated upon here in some detail for this typicality.

State Representative Denmark Groover introduced a bill in the House to prohibit publication of names of persons charged with sex crimes or drunk driving before issuance of an indictment, formal court accusation or a commitment hearing.

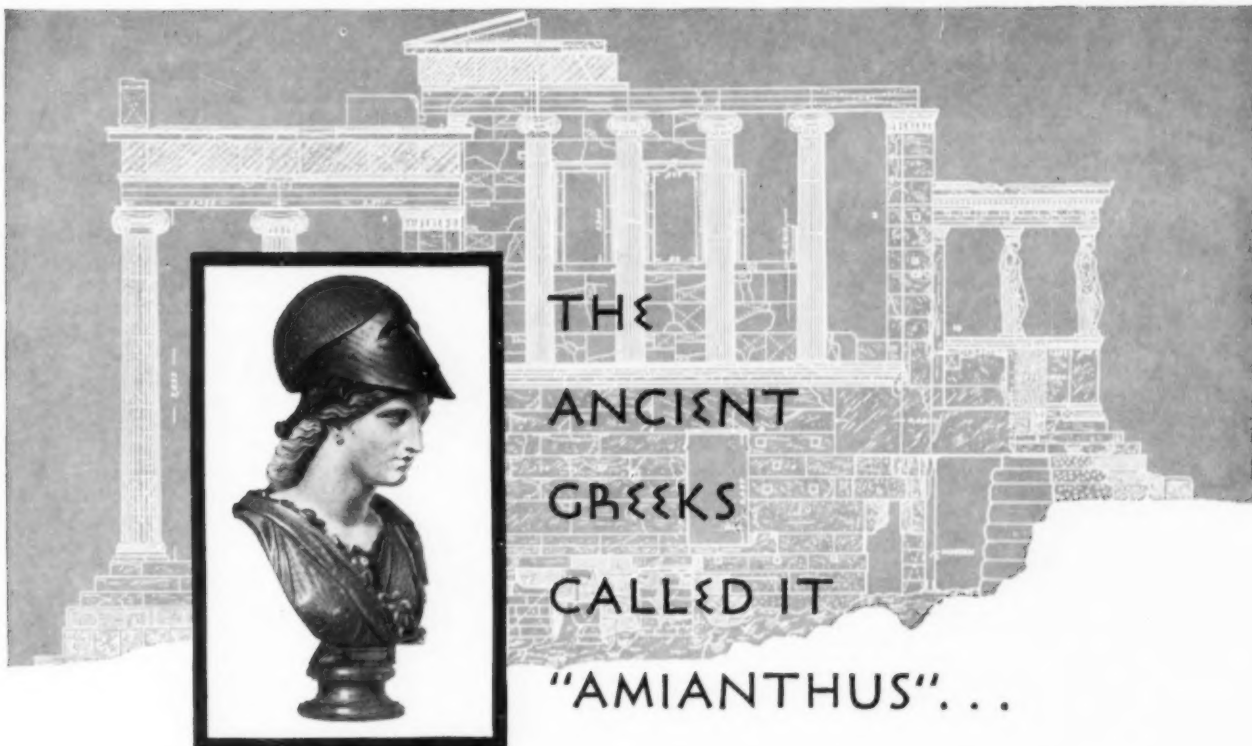
Unfortunately, the measure was popularly received by a large segment of the population. Drunk drivers and their families thought it a good idea, as did those who had experienced notoriety, along with their friends and relatives, in sex cases.

There always is a sizable bloc of readers ready to embrace the proposition that "the newspapers should print only the 'constructive' news." Otherwise intelligent and sincere citizens are convinced that crime news begets crime and that, therefore, this public information should be withheld from the public.

The measure was defeated. But it demonstrated once again the requirement of eternal vigilance. The public and the legislators were made to see that such a measure opened the way for "secret arrests." Much was made of the fact that the Attorney General of Georgia months previously had been charged with drunk driving and resisting arrest (the cases subsequently being dismissed), and that this never would have come to public attention had Representative Groover's bill been in effect. The public was shown that the record of a high official or an influential person arrested for drunk driving would not be made available to the public through the press should an indictment, formal court accusation or commitment not be forthcoming, for whatever the reason.

The point also was made that in  
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*...WE KNOW IT AS ASBESTOS, the naturally fibrous mineral which has the appearance of silk and cotton, yet will not burn.*

*One of the earliest references to asbestos was in the description of the golden lamp by the Greek sculptor Callimachus which burned before the statue of Minerva in Athens. The lamp, made about 430 B.C., had a wick "of Carpasian flax, which alone of all other things is inconsummable by fire."*

*Research indicates that "Carpasian flax" was asbestos fibre. Asbestos, in those ancient days, was very rare and the Roman historian, Pliny, refers to it as "equal in value to the finest pearls."*

*Today asbestos, while no longer so rare, has become one of man's most useful minerals, serving him a thousand different ways.*

*In the past 100 years a vast industry has grown up in the mining of asbestos fibre and its fabrication into an enormous variety of essential products. These include industrial insulations; brake linings and friction materials; roofing materials, floor tile and other building materials; textiles; packings and gaskets; water and sewer pipe and electrical conduit . . . to name some major uses.*

*Johns-Manville, with nearly a century of experience in the manufacture of asbestos products, is also the world's largest producer of asbestos fibre. Our mines in Canada serve manufacturers in the United States and the world over.*

*If you would like information, pictures, or research aid on asbestos, or any phase of asbestos exploration, mining or manufacturing, phone Johns-Manville's Public Relations Department, at LExington 2-7600.*

**Johns-Manville, 22 East 40th Street, New York City**

the instance of two drivers being involved in an accident—one sober, the other drunk—the public could be given the information as to the involvement of the sober and innocent party, but not the drunk and guilty one.

Similar measures have and will come up from time to time in various states. Concerted action by the State press and other mediums, and by your Committee, forestalled the Georgia move toward suppression.

There was one other success—a half-way one—in the field of public records. New Mexico opened relief rolls to public inspection. But there was the odd proviso that while the public could see the record, "it shall be unlawful for any newspaper to publish any such list of names in full or in part for any purpose." And there was a failure in this same field. The Governor of West Virginia vetoed a bill to open welfare rolls to the public.

The line up of states having laws stipulating that public records are open remained:

Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Indiana, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

### 3.

#### General

**W**HILE not specifically involving public information in the official or governmental sense, your Committee has viewed with growing concern the movement to limit certain information directed to the public through advertisements. There is, in some instances, a more than tenuous connection between limits on advertising and the public's right to public information.

State laws regulating or limiting advertising in various professional, product or political fields are well known. They are of concern to if not directly within the field of responsibility of your Committee—specifically when they are retaliatory in nature as applied against newspapers on which the public depends for its public information. Huey Long did not start it when he tried to punish certain public information mediums by barring them from certain revenue, nor did it end there. Among other states recently adopting limitations or regulations on advertising, by law or departmental decree, was Georgia. The Commissioner of Revenue has decreed he must approve all beer and liquor advertising before pub-

lication, and that the copy, along with a list of newspapers in which it is to appear, must be submitted in advance. Why a list of newspapers? If the copy is in good taste for one, isn't it for another? Newspapers in Georgia soon found out that the list and copy approval requirement could lead to punitive withholding. Copy for a beer ad was ordered withheld from the *Atlanta Constitution* admittedly as a "punishment" for what the Commissioner's office considered to be a punishable act by the newspaper in another but advertising matter. Extended to the logical conclusion, the new decree could be invoked in a retaliatory manner for the publication of public information if the Commissioners did not approve.

Libel laws also are watched closely, as possible weapons to be turned against the mediums in their functions of reporting public information. The Illinois Legislature refused to amend an Act permitting libel actions to be brought in any county in which a newspaper has circulation—thus forestalling a flood of harassing suits in punitive cases. New Mexico adopted a uniform libel law, providing for only one libel suit resulting from a single publication. Oregon got a new law denying general damages for libel unless a correction or retraction were refused. Tennessee enacted an "honest mistake" libel law, limiting damages to actual, and not punitive.

### IX

#### RADIO AND TELEVISION

**T**HE fight for freedom of information in the radio and television fields has been carried on with equal vigor and consistency at both national and state levels in the past year.

Our contacts with the freedom of information committees of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the Columbia Broadcasting System, Inc., the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the Radio-Television News Directors Association and state broadcasting associations reveals:

1. Vigorous opposition to any action, whatever the source, which limits the capacity of broadcasters to cover public proceedings by the use of microphones or other electronic reportorial devices.

2. Continuous efforts to develop educational programs in the fields of radio, TV and pictorial journalism to demonstrate the ability of radio and television broadcasters, as well as press cameramen, to cover public events with modern photographic, mechanical and electronic equipment without undue interference with all

reasonable requirements of jurisprudence and the orderly conduct of public business.

There have been both notable gains and frustrations for radio and television in the field of freedom of information in the last year.

Our biggest setback this year was the ruling of Speaker Rayburn that House committee hearings cannot be broadcast or televised. Radio and television organizations protested this ruling to no avail. The House rules committee upheld the speaker by declining to act favorably on a resolution authorizing such committee coverage. Fortunately the situation is a little better in the Senate where each committee can make its own decisions.

Spokesmen for radio and television in Sigma Delta Chi also report encountering difficulties with individual government officials, at both national and state levels, who refuse to make the same statements before tape recorders or television film cameras that they give orally to reporters.

Biggest items on the affirmative side are:

1. President Eisenhower's decision to permit televising of his news conferences.

2. Secretary of State Dulles' decision to permit radio recordings of his news conferences, usually with repeats of highlights for TV film cameras. (He still holds out against permitting movie cameras in actual conferences).

3. Secretary of Defense Wilson's decision to permit both recorders and cameras at his conferences.

4. The dramatic demonstrations by television and press photographers and radio (at the annual convention of the American Bar Association at Philadelphia) that they could cover both the proceedings of the ABA's governing body, the House of Delegates, or a simulated court trial with dignity and silence without Hollywood trappings or floodlights and without interference with the proceedings.

The broadcasts and news-photo demonstrations which were highly praised by many ABA delegates, after being approved unanimously on a motion of Judge Justin Miller, raised hopes for eventual revision of ABA's controversial Canon 35, a flat radio-TV-camera prohibition that grew out of the Bruno Hauptman kidnapping-murder trial coverage of two decades ago.

There still are many instances at the local and national levels of denial of access to radio and television stations attempting to cover court public

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# 1956 SDX Awards Announcement

The Sigma Delta Chi Awards for Distinguished Service in Journalism have been awarded annually since 1932 for outstanding achievements in journalism during a calendar year and winners are usually announced in April.

The awards proper consist of bronze medallions and accompanying plaques.

## Nominations

Nominations for any one of the Sigma Delta Chi Awards may be made by the author or any other party. A nomination form is required and may be secured by writing to the address below. Awards are open alike to non-members, men and women, and members of Sigma Delta Chi.

February 1, 1956 is the deadline for nominations. Nominations postmarked on that date will be accepted. Mail or express entries to: Victor E. Bluedorn, Director Sigma Delta Chi Awards in Journalism, Suite 848, 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Illinois.

## Exhibits

All awards, except those for public service, are offered to individuals for specific work done by Americans during the calendar year 1955.

Each nomination must be accompanied by an exhibit and complete nomination form, filled out by typewriter or print.

Exhibits in press divisions should be in scrapbook form, measuring not larger than 15 inches by 20 inches, and should include clippings. Radio and television reporting exhibits should consist of recordings, tapes, or film and a typewritten summary. Radio or television newswriting exhibits are limited to typescripts. Radio public service exhibits should consist of recordings (no tapes) with a typewritten summary. Television public service exhibits should include film (if available) and a typewritten summary. Research exhibit should consist of manuscript or printed book.

A brief biography of individuals nominated **MUST** accompany all nominations.

A nomination intended for more than one division requires an exhibit for each category.

Each nomination must be clearly marked to show division in which it is entered. Several nominations may be sent in one package, but each should be identified and accompanied by separate nomination form.

All nominations will be acknowledged. Exhibits cannot be returned except upon written request at the time entry is submitted. Such material will be returned to sender by express collect unless other arrangements have been made. All prize-winning exhibits become the property of Sigma Delta Chi.

**NOMINATIONS NOT MEETING THE ABOVE SPECIFICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR JUDGING.**

## Judging

The material submitted for consideration for the awards will be judged by a jury of veteran and distinguished journalists. All decisions will be final. Any award may be withheld in case the judges decide that none of the material submitted is worthy of special recognition.

## Awards Categories

### Press (General)

**1. General Reporting:** For a distinguished example of a reporter's work, either a single story, or a series on a related subject, published during the year, the test being readability, accuracy and completeness, interest, enterprise and resourcefulness of the reported in overcoming obstacles.

**2. Editorial Writing:** For a distinguished example of an editor's work, either a single editorial or a series relating to the same subject, published during the year; editorials by any one writer being limited to three, a series on a single topic counting as one entry.

**3. Washington Correspondence:** For a distinguished example of a Washington, D. C. correspondent's work, either a single article or dispatch, or a series of articles on the same or related subject matter, published during the year.

**4. Foreign Correspondence:** For a distinguished example of foreign correspondent's work, either a single dispatch or a series related to the same subject matter, published during the year.

**5. News Picture:** For an outstanding example of a news photographer's work, either a single picture, or sequence or series of pictures, published during the year; photographs

by any one person being limited of six, a series on a single topic counting as one entry.

**6. Editorial Cartoon:** For a distinguished example of a cartoonist's work, a single cartoon published during the year, the determining qualities being craftsmanship, interest, forcefulness and general worth; cartoons by any one person being limited to six.

### Press (Newspapers)

**7. Public Service in Newspaper Journalism:** For an outstanding public service rendered by a newspaper in which exceptional courage or initiative is displayed in face of opposition from antisocial forces, political, or other discouraging or hampering forces. Nominations are to be accompanied by a complete file of clippings together with a statement of facts concerning the circumstances which prompted the newspaper in its undertaking and the results obtained.

### Press (Magazines)

**8. Magazine Reporting:** For a distinguished example of current events reporting by a magazine writer, either a single article or series related to the same subject, published in a magazine of general circulation during the year.

**9. Public Service in Magazine Journalism:** For an exceptionally noteworthy example of public service rendered editorially or pictorially by a magazine of general circulation, special consideration being given to leadership or service achieved in the face of antisocial, political or other hampering forces, other tests being extent of good accomplished, enterprise, initiative, and effectiveness of presentation through pictures, articles, editorials and other graphic means; nominations being accompanied by a complete file of clippings together with a statement of facts concerning the circumstances which prompted the magazine in its undertaking and the results obtained.

### Radio or Television

**10. Radio or Television Newswriting:** For a distinguished example of newswriting or commentary for radio or television; nominations consisting of either a partial or complete script, broadcast or telecast during the year.

### Radio

**11. Radio Reporting:** For the most distinguished example of spot news reporting of a single news event, scheduled or unscheduled, broadcast by radio during the year; exhibits consisting of a typewritten summary and recordings or tapes, not exceeding fifteen minutes running time.

**12. Public Service in Radio Journalism:** For an outstanding example of public service by an individual radio station or network through radio journalism, the test being the worth of the public service, the effectiveness of the presentation by the station or network, and the unselfish or public-spirited motives, bearing in mind that the broadcasts must be journalistic in nature, not entertainment; commercially sponsored radio programs not being eligible unless produced and controlled by the broadcasting station; exhibits consisting of disc recordings (no tapes) and a typewritten summary mentioning running time of exhibit, not to exceed fifteen minutes.

### Television

**13. Television Reporting:** For the most distinguished example of spot news reporting of a single news event, scheduled or unscheduled, broadcast by television during the year; exhibits consisting of typewritten summary and if available, a segment or summary of 16 mm. film or kinescope, not longer than fifteen minutes.

**14. Public Service in Television Journalism:** For an outstanding example of public service by an individual television station or network through television journalism, the test being the worth of the public service, the effectiveness of the presentation by the station or network, and the unselfish or public-spirited motives, bearing in mind that the broadcasts must be journalistic in nature and not entertainment; commercially sponsored programs not being eligible unless produced and controlled by the broadcasting station; entries consisting of a typewritten summary and if available, a segment or summary of 16 mm. film or kinescope, not longer than fifteen minutes.

### Research

**15. Research About Journalism:** For an outstanding investigative study about some phase of journalism based upon original research, either published or unpublished, and completed during the year.



proceedings. But there has been marked progress, too.

For example, WGAR, Cleveland, recently succeeded in persuading the Governor of Ohio to reverse a ban he had imposed on tape-recordings at a public hearing. The reversal was effected by protesting that the law requires the hearings to be "open and public."

A District Judge in Colorado highly complimented KCSJ on its coverage of court proceedings.

One of the most frequently cited examples of success in obtaining access is WKY-TV in Oklahoma City which demonstrated as far back as 1953 the ability to cover a murder trial by television without in any way disturbing the decorum of the court room.

In Oregon radio and television interests, spearheaded by the Oregon State Broadcasters Association, gained a moral victory last spring when they persuaded caucusing lawmakers of both houses to amend their rules to give floor privileges to radio and TV newsmen on the same basis as newspaper reporters.

In a Portland, Oregon, circuit court, a murder trial was photographed by both newspaper and TV cameramen with court permission and without complaints from anyone connected with the trial.

At Roseburg, Oregon, KRNR taped and broadcast an entire murder trial.

And Oregon State Broadcasters Association, teaming up with Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association, obtained agreement from the Oregon Circuit Judges' Association to undertake a review of its Rule 19 (modeled after Canon 35) with representatives of radio-TV and the press, but so far no joint meeting has been called.

Another progressive step is cited by the National Committee for An Adequate Overseas U. S. Information Program in that 16 additional U. S. Ambassadors and three former U. S. Ambassadors issued statements this year in support of a more effective broadcasting and information service designed:

- (1) to counter false and malicious Soviet propaganda against the U. S.,
- (2) project our actions, ideas and ideals for democracy and peace, (3) root out misconceptions of the U. S. and (4) build confidence in our policies and way of life.

So the fight for the people's right to know goes on on all fronts.

To further this fight, your committee makes two recommendations:

1. Closer liaison throughout the year between Sigma Delta Chi's Committee for Advancement of Freedom of Information with the freedom of

information committees of the National Association of Radio and Television Broadcasters, the American Society of Newspaper Editors and other national professional groups in the mass communications field on problems and projects of mutual concern.

2. A joint annual meeting of SDX, NARTB and ASNE committees (or their representatives) to initiate and coordinate a cooperative attack on freedom of information problems and projects at the national and state levels.

The friendly cooperation of these committees with your committee indicates that such a move would be welcomed.

## X

### PHOTOGRAPHY AND THE COURTROOM

THE 1955 climax of the nation's press photographers' campaign against barriers to news pictures took place in Philadelphia August 22, during the annual convention of the American Bar Association. There the NPPA, led by Joseph Costa of King Features, chairman of the board, demonstrated photographers' claims that they could take pictures "in a courtroom" without disturbing the decorum or dignity of the proceedings. And proof of that claim has been a great and mounting issue between the press and the nation's bench and bar.

During the NPPA convention June 9-12, in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Attorney General Brownell announced: "I am recommending to the chairman of the ABA committee (on revision of Canon 35 banning courtroom photography) that a model courtroom be set up at its forthcoming meeting in August in Philadelphia so that press photographers can show their stuff."

The photographers, directly and through the editors and managing editors employing them, have been battling a judicial curtain against their lenses in many states. Many judges and lawyers have felt that trial photographs publicize the more "sensational" aspects of court proceedings and tend to reward the less judicious and more superficial officers of the courts—both lawyers and judges.

Although the ABA found it impossible literally to provide a mock court for the demonstration of the fotogs, the association did permit pictures during the "Conference on Personal Finance Law" held in Lincoln Hall at the Union League.

Mr. Costa; Frank B. Johnston, chief photographer for the Philadelphia *Inquirer*; John Faber, press representative of Eastman Kodak Co.; Julius

Heisgen and Gene Anderegg of Leitz, Inc.; and Ed Clark of *Life*, shot more than 300 pictures.

The photographers moved quietly around the room (it was later noted that most courtrooms were better lighted) shooting pictures during the whole proceedings. The pictures were later displayed at subsequent sessions of the ABA. And the following comments from attending lawyers and judges were published in the August 27 issue of *Editor & Publisher*:

Herbert G. Goodrich of Philadelphia, of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, president of the American Law Institute and former dean of the University of Pennsylvania law school (who acted as chief judge during the mock argument in Lincoln Hall): "Very smoothly done. Distracting a bit, but so is a pretty girl. Interested that nobody was mugging. Anxious to see the pictures tomorrow." Judge Goodrich added, however, that he was against courtroom photography in principle, even against giving individual judges discretion in each case.

Anna M. Purdue, U. S. assistant attorney general for New York state: "Didn't know about the experiment in advance, and had no idea that pictures were being taken. As a spectator, watching the judicial proceedings, I was in no way distracted."

The foregoing comments were echoed by many others whose views were sought after the experiment. Mr. Brownell himself witnessed the day's proceedings and later suggested that the ABA re-examine its canon forbidding courtroom photography.

The ABA took no formal action, however. And the commentaries of members, particularly judges, showed little disposition to relax the barriers against modern lensmen in courts of law.

## XI

### THE PRESS VS. THE BAR

THE news camera in the courtroom was not the only field of contention between the press and the bar during the year. A small segment of lawyers, principally from New York City, were extremely vocal in their advocacy of changes in the bar's Canon 20, which, if adopted by the Bar Associations and Supreme Courts of our land, would lock the lips of all participants in criminal proceedings and would otherwise handicap the press in reporting the facts until after decision by the judge.

In February, the chairman of your Committee engaged Mr. Louis Waldman, president of the Brooklyn Bar Association, in a debate over the mat-

ter before the Florida Bar Association at Miami.

Mr. Waldman made a most vicious attack upon the press and deplored what he called "trial by newspaper." In reply, your chairman challenged the bar for its great lack of public service; charged that Canon 20 would be the first outright step toward star chamber justice; and warned that if the free American press, the sentinel of freedom, and the free American Bar, the custodian of justice, should ever get crossed up in a fight-to-death struggle, then God help the American people and their freedom and justice.

During the debate, your chairman quoted liberally from Judge Walter B. Jones, who, in throwing out motions of the defense to exclude the press from the Phenix City, Alabama, vice trials, said: "The freedom of the press, guaranteed by both state and federal constitutions, cannot be destroyed by court rulings."

Because Judge Jones spoke as a great jurist from the very front line of the American struggle to maintain free courts and free government and because the press probably will hear more of the bar's Canon 20, your Committee hereby includes in this report for the Sigma Delta Chi record liberal quotes from Judge Jones. He said:

"The American people have found that the press can be trusted; that as a whole it is made up of men and women who are sincerely devoted to freedom of the press and giving the people all the news."

He said further:

"News barriers are inherently selfish, thrown up by some public official who either has a lust for power or is ashamed for the press to find out what is going on. It is hypocrisy of the worst kind."

"The courts touch the lives and firesides of the people more than any branch of government. That being so, it is vitally essential that the people know what goes on in the courts without censorship from some self-appointed guardian of their morals."

And last but not least in importance, Judge Jones said:

"The nation's very security demands that there shall be no break, however small, in the constitutional dam that holds back the flood waters of tyranny and dictatorship. Censorship in the courtroom or anywhere else in government could be that small break."

## XII

### CONCLUSION

THE year 1955 was marked with constant clashes, sometimes bitter, between the press and the politician

over censorship in government.

Your Committee participated in some of these clashes; it followed closely every one of them, and throughout the year it gave considerable thought to them, their background, their outcome, and the philosophy behind them.

Sad as it may be, your committee feels that it is its duty to report that very little came out of these clashes between press and politician.

Best example was the running fight between the press and various politicians in the Federal Department of Defense. At the end of the year, there was the tightest censorship in the history of American government in the Department of Defense, and it was spreading to all parts of the Federal Government.

Sad as it also may be, your Committee reached the realization that the politician looks upon the press favorably only when he can use it as a medium for his propaganda.

These clashes posed other questions, some of them academic. Can the press anoint itself as the agent for the people to fight the politician—or negotiate with him—over the people's rights and freedom? Can we in the press expect the politician to take off his hat and bow and scrape when we suddenly rise up and denounce the secret operations which he has developed and gotten away with over a period of 25 years? Does the politician take his orders from the press or the people? Don't we exist as a free press only at the bidding of the free people and so long as we live up to the obligations placed on us by freedom, among those obligations that of being the sentinel of freedom?

Upon consideration and reconsideration of these questions, your Committee checked and re-checked its extensive files and found very little evidence of any great victories scored by the press over the politician in the matter of secret government. But we did find numerous cases wherein the people, when aroused by an alert press, stepped in, put the politician back in his perspective place in government, and opened government to public inspection.

So that, in brief, is your Committee's simple recommendation to Sigma Delta Chi and all its members. If free American government, as we know it, is to survive, along with the free press, in the trying years ahead, the press, one and all, must go far beyond the call of duty in taking the full story to the people. If the politician persists in closing the door of government, then let the press smash this on Page 1 and keep smashing it there until the people, always

pre-occupied with their personal affairs, come alive and put the finger of public opinion upon the politician. That, in the opinion of your Committee, is the only solution to the present pressing dangers to American freedom and the free American press. And the greatest of all dangers is, not the politician, but an apathetic people.

In conclusion, your Committee can only point to the tragedy of *La Prensa* and the Peron dictatorship in the Argentine. *La Prensa*, greatest newspaper influence in South America, carefully carried in its columns all of the governmental and anti-governmental propaganda releases. It was fair to both sides, but it was not fair to the people. It did not dig beneath the propaganda and rouse the people with the truth. In short, it did not strike a blow for the people's freedom. So *La Prensa* died—and with it the people's freedom.

Respectfully submitted this first day of November, 1955, by:

#### The Committee

#### FOR ADVANCE OF FREEDOM OF INFORMATION OF SIGMA DELTA CHI

V. M. NEWTON JR., Tampa Tribune, Chairman.

JERRY HARSCHMAN, Sharon (Pa.) Herald.

BASIL L. WALTERS, Chicago Daily News.

MURRAY POWERS, Akron Beacon Journal.

ROBERT W. BROWN, Columbus (Ga.) Ledger.

ROBERT W. LUCAS, Denver Post.

TOM HUMPHREY, Portland (Ore.) Journal.

## Is Press Alert to Dangerous Precedent on Secrecy?

(Continued from page 10)

ter changed. Republican congressional leaders have complained for years of the way they were barred from obtaining information from the executive branch during the Roosevelt and Truman administrations.

In many cases their complaints were justified, and it should be easy for them to see their own future interest in changing the precedent. Dem-

ocrats in Congress are now facing the barrier of the letter, and many of them have become aware of its potential.

The President of the United States should see clearly why the open-record policy is to his advantage. Unless records are open to Congress, the press and the public, the President is at the mercy of those he appoints to head the agencies. Regardless of the care used in making appointments, there is always the possibility of an agency head going wrong. The President does not normally conduct an independent investigation of the reports filed by various agencies. He depends on the men who report to him. It is often that his first inkling of misfeasance or malfeasance in office comes from a news story, or a question at a press conference.

So far the press has been mighty slow to see the dangers inherent in the May 17, 1954, letter. That letter won support because it came clothed as a weapon to stop Senator McCarthy. I do not believe the letter made one bit of difference in the outcome of the Army-McCarthy hearings. It only saved a few high officials from the embarrassment of giving testimony on precisely what they had said about the senator from Wisconsin.

**T**HE great popularity of President Eisenhower was another factor contributing to the failure of the press to question the letter at the time. There have been only a few questions asked of the President since then. The answers have failed to modify the precedent.

President Eisenhower has stated that this letter can never be used to cover up improper acts by officials in his administration. I am sure that most of us are convinced that he would never allow the letter to be used for an improper purpose, if he knew about it. But is that enough? What about future Republican presidents or future Democratic presidents? Their motives may not be so high.

Even if we would disregard the public interest involved, there is enough selfish interest involved for the press and political leaders of both parties to justify an all-out fight to overrule the precedent.

We shouldn't try to make this a political fight. Republicans and Democrats alike should see the danger of allowing the party in power to have such control over access of information. At this stage it shouldn't be necessary to draw any further blueprint on the potential danger to the press.

## Texas Students Get Test As Interns

(Continued from page 15)

nel of racing greyhounds for a possible feature. He drove out, looked at the pens, and decided that there was no story. Later he found that the stock was imported from Cuba and Florida, and that some of the trained dogs sold for as much as \$50,000. The *Associated Press* used a feature on the project—written by a regular staffer.

The training program includes advertising internships as well as news room work. The number of interns and newspapers interested in this phase increases yearly.

Prof. Thompson reports that industrial publications in the state have shown an interest in the program, and have indicated that they would like to co-operate in it. The Shell Oil Company of Houston experimented by accepting a graduate student from the University of Texas in the summer of 1954 for a brief training period. Another magazine editor has consulted North Texas State about the possibility of accepting an intern for a full summer period on the same basis as the daily newspaper program.

Schools that participate in the intern program at present are the University of Texas, North Texas State College, Texas Christian University, Southern Methodist University, Texas A. and M. College, Texas State College for Women, Baylor University, and Texas Technological College.

Co-operating newspapers include the *Abilene Reporter-News*, the *Amarillo Globe-Times*, the *Bay City Tribune*, the *Baytown Sun*, the *Big Spring Herald*, the *Beaumont Enterprise-Journal*, the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, the *Dallas Morning News*, the *Denison Herald*, the *Forth Worth Press*, the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, the *Hot Springs (Ark.) New Era and Sentinel-Record*, the *Houston Chronicle, Press, and Post*.

Others are the *Jacksonville Progress*, the *Kilgore News-Herald*, the *Marshall News-Messenger*, the *Port Arthur News*, the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*, the *San Angelo Standard-*

*Times*, the *Sherman Democrat*, the *Sweetwater Reporter*, the *Texarkana News and Gazette*, the *Tyler Courier-Times and Telegraph*, the *Waco News-Tribune and Times-Herald*, the *San Antonio Express*, the *Waxahachie Light*, and the *Wichita Falls Record-News and Daily Times*.

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